

Untitled

written by

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INT. CECILIA'S HOME. CECILIA'S ROOM - NIGHT.

CECILIA is playing with a **doll house**, she is 11 years old. She has a **little girl doll** and a **father figure doll**. She wiggles the little girl doll as she speaks:

CECILIA
Where's mommy?

Her bedroom door opens with a soft knock. CECILIA'S FATHER emerges from behind the door.

She puts the dolls down and stares at the floor in silence.

CECILIA'S FATHER
Can I join you?

No response.

The father sit's down. He picks up the father figure doll. He tries to gain Cecilia's attention by wiggling it and giving it a voice:

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
How is Cecilia feeling today?

No response. He puts the doll down.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Maybe we can do something exciting together. Would that be OK?

Cecilia does not look at him. She looks very unenthusiastic.

EXT. BACKYARD OF HOUSE - NIGHT.

Cecilia's Father drops a **box of fireworks** at Cecilia's feet.

CECILIA'S FATHER
This is what my friend's and I did all the time to have fun. Want to try some of these?

No response.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Well, we have fire crackers. And we have a ton of these smoke bombs. We used to smoke bomb people's mailboxes and cars if their windows where cracked open.
(MORE)

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
(extends smoke bomb to
Cecilia)

Here.

She does not even look at him; keeps her eyes to the ground.

He lights the smoke bomb and throws it out into the yard. He watches as it shoots out a stream of smoke.

No response from Cecilia. Cecilia's father pulls out a fire cracker and is about to light it.

CECILIA
Is that going to be loud?

CECILIA'S FATHER
Well... yeah kind of.

CECILIA
Can I go inside now?

The father looks at Cecilia and nods. She leaves. The smoke pours out and lifts into the sky.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY.

Cecilia sits with her arms crossed and a scowl on her face across from the female PRINCIPAL, mid forties and dressed in a pant suit. The Vice Principal stands in the corner with his arms crossed.

CECILIA
He was sort of dancing. Making fun of me.

PRINCIPAL
Dancing? I thought you said he ran away?

CECILIA
He stole my lunch!

PRINCIPAL
And **then** he pushed you?

CECILIA
Yes, he pushed me. And he laughed at me. Then he ran away and ate my peanut butter and jelly sandwich. I saw the jelly on his mouth in Mrs. Mally's room.

PRINCIPAL

Well let's bring him in here and hear his side of the story.

The Principal signals to the VICE PRINCIPAL to let in Quentin; a 12 year old boy. Quentin sits only a few feet away from Cecilia. They do not look at each other.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Quentin did you push Cecilia and steal her lunch?

QUENTIN

No.

PRINCIPAL

Did you eat her sandwich?

QUENTIN

I didn't touch her stupid sandwich. She's always making up stories. She lies all the time. She always gets boys in our class in trouble! She's a weirdo.

PRINCIPAL

Quentin we don't call anyone a weirdo.

QUENTIN

Well, she is! She got Gavin suspended because she slammed herself against a hallway door-frame and told Mrs. Mally that Gavin punched her. Tommy saw her do it.

PRINCIPAL

Cecilia... Is anything Quentin said true?

CECILIA

NO! He's a liar! He pushed me and ate my peanut butter and jelly sandwich!

The Principal shrugs her shoulders toward the Vice Principal. The Vice Principal shrugs his shoulders back at her.

PRINCIPAL

OK. You both are excused for now. Please go back to class, and keep a distance from one another. Quentin why don't you go ahead first.

Quentin stands, extremely exasperated; and like a spiteful but compliant teen, he stomps out the door.

Cecilia sits, pouting, and stares at the floor with her arms crossed.

The principal studies her.

After a few seconds, The Principal addresses Cecilia.

CECILIA

Cecilia, why don't you return to class now.

She stands and leaves in a huff.

As she is walking down the hallway we see Quentin peek his head out from behind a locker. Then he takes a step out when she gets close.

She walks by him. He just watches her then speaks tersely.

QUENTIN

Why are you trying to get me in trouble?

CECILIA

Shut up! I hate you!

Principal sticks her head out of her office door.

PRINCIPAL

Hey! Back to class! No talking in the hallway! No talking to each other! Period!

Cecilia storms off.

Principal comes back into her office and looks to the vice principal.

VICE PRINCIPAL

What are we going to do?

INT. CECILIA'S HOME - AFTERNOON.

Cecilia's father is on the phone.

CECILIA'S FATHER

I don't know about her and boys in her class. She's very passive here, doesn't tell me anything...

(MORE)

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I know she's a bit old for it, but all she does now is play with her dolls. I try playing with her... well, the only thing I ever used to do for fun was box...

There is a pause and a deep sigh from Cecilia's Father.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

(hurt, but factual)

Last August... Thanks, been really hard on us both... a phase?... sure...

Cecilia is stare at her father in the door way.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I gotta go...
(to Cecilia)
Hey, sweetheart.

Cecilia stomps off and slams her bedroom door.

Cecilia's Father comes to the door and knocks.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Did you want to get some ice cream?

CECILIA

I hate ice cream. Mom used to take me to BOBA.

CECILIA'S FATHER

Well... can I take you to BOBA?

CECILIA

You're not mom!

Cecilia's Father leaves her bedroom door and sits in on the couch and takes a deep heavy breath.

EXT. LUNCH TIME - DAY.

Cecilia is sitting alone at a wooden table with her **peanut butter and jelly sandwich**. Quentin, Gavin and Tommy come to stand and look down at her from the other side of the wooden table.

Cecilia looks up that them. Not scared. She's on defense. Like a feral cat.

Quentin reaches across the table and grabs the sandwich out of her hands.

CECILIA

Hey!

QUENTIN

Now I really **did** steal your sandwich. Go run and tell on us.

CECILIA

I hate you!

She stands. She claws Quentin's face.

QUENTIN

Ow! What is wrong with you!?

GAVIN

You gonna let a **girl** beat you up?

Quentin punches her in the arm. *Hard.*

CECILIA

Ah!!!!

QUENTIN

I hope that bruises, so you don't have slam yourself into door frames anymore. You weirdo.

She spits on Quentin. Quentin throws the peanut butter and jelly sandwich and hits Cecilia in the chest.

CECILIA

(at the top of her lungs)
Go away!!!

This draws the attention of a far away yard duty who - up to this point - had her back to the entire situation and was speaking with another adult.

As the yard duty approaches the boys run away.

YARD DUTY

Hey! Quentin! Gavin! Tommy! Come back here!

The three of them reluctantly turn around and walk back, but only half way.

YARD DUTY (CONT'D)

What happened here?

No one responds. She notices that Cecilia is rubbing her hurt arm.

YARD DUTY (CONT'D)
 Cecilia, why were you screaming?
 (noticing she is rubbing
 her arm)
 Did these boys hurt you?

Cecilia stops rubbing her arm and stares at Quentin.

CECILIA
 No.

YARD DUTY
 Well can you tell me why you were
 screaming?

CECILIA
 I wasn't screaming.

YARD DUTY
 Quentin. Can you tell me what
 happened?

QUENTIN
 Nothing happened. We were just
 walking by and she screamed at us.
 She's a weirdo.

YARD DUTY
 Quentin...

QUENTIN
 Can we go?

The yard duty looks at Cecilia and then looks back at Quentin
 and his team.

Cecilia storms off.

YARD DUTY
 Cecilia.

CECILIA
 I hate you! I hate this school!

INT. CECILIA'S HOME - AFTERNOON.

Cecilia storms through the front door and walks up to her
 father who's **sautéing vegetables** over the **stove**.

CECILIA'S FATHER
 Hey there young lady how are -

CECILIA
I need to learn how to punch.

CECILIA'S FATHER
(confused)
OK. Why is that?

CECILIA
Can you please teach me to punch!

Her father stares at his child. Cecilia stares right back and looks so determined that he simply nods his head.

CECILIA'S FATHER
I would love to.

INT. BASEMENT - LATER.

Cecilia is hitting her fathers hands with **punching gloves** on her hands. She still has that angry determined scowl on her face. She is hitting as hard as she can, but it is not very hard.

CECILIA'S FATHER
Good, Cecilia.

She stops.

CECILIA
It's not good. How can I hit harder?

CECILIA'S FATHER
If I tell you that, will you start talking with me about how you're feeling?

CECILIA
I'm feeling like I want to know how to make bigger muscles so I can hit harder.

CECILIA'S FATHER
That's not a feeling, that's a goal.

CECILIA
I'm feeling like nobody is helping me!

CECILIA'S FATHER
I'm helping.

CECILIA

What muscles can I make bigger?

CECILIA'S FATHER

Well, it's not just the muscles.

It's your form.

(takes a breath)

You need to have a strong stance.
here.

He walks behind Cecilia and moves her legs into position.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Then, you need to push with your
legs and then rotate your shoulders
and throw that power into your
swing.

CECILIA

OK. lemme hit you again.

CECILIA'S FATHER

Can you ask me?

CECILIA

Can you please let me hit you
again?

The father stands in front of Cecilia and she tries punching
with the new technique.

CECILIA (CONT'D)

It feels awkward.

CECILIA'S FATHER

It won't with practice.

She tries again. It's much harder of a punch.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

(smile of pride)

There you go!

She punches again.

INT. MRS. MALLY'S CLASS - DAY.

Cecilia watches Quentin while they're in class. Her scowl is
menacing. Quentin looks over to her, very concerned. He
pivots his body away from her scowl.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER.

Cecilia is walking down the hallway and the principal approaches Cecilia.

PRINCIPAL
Hey Cecilia, I've been meaning to
catch up with you. How you feeling?

Cecilia responds with out looking at the principal. She increases her pace.

CECILIA
I'm fine.

PRINCIPAL
How are things between you and
Quentin?

Cecilia keeps her fast pace and does not look at the principal.

CECILIA
They're fine.

The principal stops trying and slows her walk as she watches Cecilia walk away from her.

INT. CECILIA'S HOME - EVENING.

Cecilia's Father arrives home and puts down his brief case by the front door. While removing his jacket he hears a familiar, repetitive tapping noise.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS.

Cecilia's Father goes into the basement and witnesses his daughter repeatedly striking his **punching bag** hanging from the rafters.

He nods his head in approval and a bit of concern.

Cecilia does not acknowledge him. She sweats as she continues to beat the bag with her new found technique.

INT. MRS. MALLY'S CLASS - DAY.

Cecilia is staring at Quentin again.

Quentin notices again. His concern look turns to aggression.

QUENTIN

Why do you keep staring at me? Are you in love with me or something.

Cecilia looks away. She balls her fists. She starts breathing hard.

INT. CECILIA'S HOME - EVENING.

Cecilia's Father arrives home and hears a different noise.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS.

Cecilia's Father comes down the stairs and sees Cecilia raising and slamming his **medicine ball**.

CECILIA'S FATHER

What'chu doing?

CICILIA

I read,
(slams medicine ball)
That if you strengthen your core...
(picks up ball)
You can hit harder.
(slam)

CECILIA'S FATHER

Cecilia... who do you want to hit?

CECILIA

What do you care?
(slam)

CECILIA'S FATHER

I care because I don't want you to hurt anybody.

CECILIA

Don't want ME to hurt anybody?
(slam)
What about when you hurt mom?
(slam)

There is pain in his face. He breathes.

CECILIA'S FATHER

Cecilia, that was a years ago. And that was a mistake.

CECILIA

A mistake that you can't take back.

(slam)

And now she's dead.

(slam)

And you can't bring her back.

(slam)

And I'm going to punch whoever I
want.

(slam)

Can you please go away.

(slam)

The father walks back up the stairs.

INT. CECILIA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS.

He goes back to that same position on the couch and his breathing becomes very deep and heavy. Tears rise in his eyes.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY.

Cecilia is wearing her **backpack**. She looks into the Principals office and sees her talking with someone.

Cecilia looks into Mrs. Mally's classroom and sees her bent over her desk writing something down.

Cecilia looks down the hallway and sees Quentin on the opposite side of the hallway talking with his posse. She walks briskly and opens a vacant class room door.

Cecilia pulls out a lighter and a hand full of smoke bombs and fire crackers from her backpack.

She lights them and tosses them into the middle of the classroom floor. Smoke billows from the center of the room. Loud explosions start.

She pulls another hand full of smoke bombs and fire crackers from her backpack, lights them and tosses them into another vacant classroom.

She does this, yet again, in another vacant classroom.

She walks back to the hallway where she saw Quentin at the opposite end.

She doesn't budge as someone behind her screams: **SMOKE!**

She looks over to the principals office and watches the principal stand and leave her office to inspect.

While the principal passes Cecilia, they exchange glances.

Cecilia looks over and sees Mrs. Mally leave her room to join the principal.

Cecilia looks back to Quentin.

CECILIA

Quentin!

Quentin looks over to her.

CECILIA (CONT'D)

I'm going to burn this school down
and make you cry Quentin!

Quentin steps forward, confused.

We see smoke enter the hallway from behind Cecilia.

QUENTIN

Let's see you try, weirdo.

CECILIA

Don't call me weirdo!

QUENTIN

Why not? You're a crazy weirdo!

CECILIA

I'm going to kill you!

The smoke gets thicker behind Cecilia. She charges at Quentin.

From behind Cecilia we hear, **EVACUATE THE BUILDING!**

Cecilia is now in striking distance from Quentin with her fists raised. Quentin looks at her, wide eyed; scared.

She swings and connects with her right fist striking his *left cheek*.

Quentin stumbles back. Quentin's posse steps back.

CECILIA (CONT'D)

You stole my sandwich!

She *hits* him in the *arm*. Hard.

CECILIA (CONT'D)
You made me feel stupid!

She hits him in the *stomach*. Quentin falls to one knee.

QUENTIN
Stop!

Cecilia raises her two fists in the air, just like the exercise with the medicine ball, and is about to bring them down on Quentin's back when she hears:

PRINCIPAL
STOP THAT IMMEDIATELY CECILIA!

The principal comes out of the smoke. Cecilia freezes with her hands in the air.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)
Did you throw smoke bombs and fire crackers into those classrooms, Cecilia?

Cecilia turns to the principal. tears and confusion and rage are in her eyes.

The principal looks at Quentin who is crying on the ground.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)
Cecilia, what have you done?

CECILIA
I don't want to be a weirdo!

Cecilia turns to the principal, still frozen with her arms in the air. She is breathing hard and tears are in her eyes.

PRINCIPAL
Oh, Cecilia. let's go out side.

Mrs. Mally is behind the principal.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)
Regina, can you take Quentin to the nurse.

Mrs. Mally comes to Quentin's side and helps him up.

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - LATER.

Cecilia and the principal sit in silence. They do not look at each other.

Cecilia's Father pulls up. He is in his work clothes. He moves his brief case from the front seat to the back. The passenger window is down.

CECILIA'S FATHER
Hop in, sweetheart.

The principal nods to the father. The father gives her a look of confusion and concern.

The principal stands and walks back to the school premises.

Cecilia climbs into the passenger seat.

INT. CECILIA'S FATHER'S CAR - CONTINUOUS.

The father buckles Cecilia in. Cecilia glares at the floor; full of pain and scorching hot heat emanating from her eyes.

They drive away in silence.

CECILIA'S FATHER
Cecilia.

No response.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Cecilia, why did you beat up that boy?

Cecilia stomps on the floor.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Cecilia you have to start talking to me.

CECILIA
I want mom back!

Cecilia whimpers. And her whimpers quickly turn into crying.

CECILIA (CONT'D)
I want my mom!

She stomps on the floor and tears keep flowing from her eyes.

CECILIA'S FATHER
We both do.

She breaks. She starts crying uncontrollably.

She leans forward and her father puts his hand on her back.

CECILIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry your hurting, Cecilia.
I want her back too.

For beat, the only noise we hear is her crying.

CECILIA

Daddy.

CECILIA'S FATHER

Yes, sweetheart?

There is a long pause.

CECILIA

Can you take me to BOBA.

CECILIA'S FATHER

Of course.

INT. BOBA CAFE - LATER.

Cecilia and her father sit at the table with two cups of BOBA in front of them. They are untouched. The two of them are looking at the table in silence.

Cecilia looks up at her father.

The father looks at Cecilia.

She puts her head back down and puts her hand out on the table.

He looks at it.

He puts his hand on top of her hand.

CECILIA'S FATHER

I love you so much.

Cecilia looks down. And through her panting and through her tears says:

CECILIA

I love you too, daddy.

They sit in silence holding each other's hands.

EXT. LUNCH TIME - DAY.

Cecilia sits at a wooden lunch table. Quentin sits alone at a table across from her.

Cecilia stands and approaches Quentin. She sits opposite of him.

QUENTIN
How was suspension?

CECILIA
Stupid. How's your face?

QUENTIN
Better.

Pause. They sit in silence for a moment.

CECILIA
Do you want half of my peanut
butter and jelly sandwich?

QUENTIN
I already ate.

Cecilia takes out half of her peanut butter and jelly sandwich from a plastic baggie and extends it to him anyway.

Quentin looks at it. She continues to hold it over the center of the table.

Quentin takes the sandwich.

They look at each other.

Quentin takes a bite.

Cecilia removes the other half of the peanut butter and jelly sandwich from the plastic baggie and bites into it.

They remain silent across the table from one another.

FADE OUT.