

17-DE01-W03

A Blessing From Min

Logline: A struggling high school student feels threatened when an exchange student moves in and turns her world upside down.

BLACK...

We hear loud music and girls chattering in a car.

FADE IN:

EXT. A SMALL SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A warm spring day, a quaint middle class neighborhood.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

A car rolls into the driveway and parks.

NICOLE ANDREWS, 17, the pack leader, TIFFANY, high-maintenance but bubbly, DENA, awkward in every way, and MADISON, subtle and sophisticated fashionista, jump out.

NICOLE
Who's got the movie?

TIFFANY
I do.

DENA
I thought we were studying?

Nicole and her crew rush to the door.

TIFFANY
We will...later.

NICOLE
...maybe...

DENA
Hurry up! I've gotta use the facilities..

BIANCA
You're the only person I know who has to use the 'FACILITIES' every five minutes.

INT. NICOLE'S FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Nicole tosses her backpack on the sofa, turns to the EMPTY wall where a 70" flat screen used to hang.

Nicole's eyes widen, she stops.

NICOLE
Omgosh! We've been robbed!

Chaos ensue.

BIANCA
Robbed?! We've been robbed.

MADISON
What if they're still in here?
We've gotta get outta here.

DENA (O.S.)
Did I hear someone say robbed.
Don't leave me...

NICOLE
Come on.., Call 911.

Bianca starts touching everything around her.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Stop leaving fingerprints
everywhere!

Dena rushes into the room, her skirt accidently tucked in her
panties.

The front door opens.

The girls scream and bump into each other trying to hide.

MADISON
We're gonna die! HIDE. They've
gotta gun.

In walks Nicole's mother, VICTORIA, 50's, dressed in scrubs.

VICTORIA
GIRLS! What's going on?

Nicole runs to her mom, pushes her out the door, the girls
follow. They all try and fit through the door.

NICOLE
(out of breath, frantic)
We've been robbed... the tv's gone.

VICTORIA
Honey...

Pushes her back in the house.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Honey...stop! We weren't robbed.

She grabs Nicole by the arm, looks her in the eyes.

NICOLE
Look!

He points to the empty wall.

VICTORIA
(yells)
Okay. Girls! GIRLS! STOP. We
weren't robbed!

The girls stop in their tracks.

INT. NICOLE'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Around the table, Nicole, Victoria, Nicole's BABY BROTHER, 4,
JIM, Nicole's dad, 50's, soft spoken and MIN SOO, 17, the
studious Korean foreign exchange student.

Everyone eats in silence. All we hear are the clinking of the
silverware on the plates.

VICTORIA
Honey, this is for your own good.

NICOLE
Says who exactly? You can't just
take away the tv's. Who does that?

BABY BROTHER
Yeah, who does that?

MIN SOO
(broken English)
You get used to it.

Nicole glares at Min, rolls her eyes, glares at her mom.

NICOLE
(to Min)
Wait? YOU did this? This was all
your idea, wasn't it?

MIN SOO
My family back home clear all tv's
for me.

JIM

We should've done this a long time ago. This is for your good.

MIN SOO

In my country high school students are most important.

NICOLE

That's your country, you're in MY country now.

VICTORIA

Nicole! That's enough.

Nicole pushes back from the table, grabs her phone and storms out.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY

Nicole sits in the back of the class, stares out the window. But really she's daydreaming. MR. KING, the teacher, not a favorite of Nicole.

MR. KING (O.S)

Miss Andrews?

NICOLE

(surprised)

He took the tv...

The class snickers. Nicole is embarrassed.

Mr. King is confused, walks down the aisle. Place graded test paper upside down on her desk.

MR. KING

Miss Andrews, your test. I take it next time you'll study.

Nicole looks around the room, catches the eye of Min Soo, she rolls her eyes, turns the paper over, sees a big red D, she immediately turns it over, slumps in her seat.

MR. KING (CONT'D)

Min Soo, good job.

He hands Min his test. Min looks at Nicole, nods his head, smiles and holds up his paper pointing to his test score. Gives her a thumbs up.

IN ON: Min's paper- Shows an A marked with red pen with a smiley face.

She fakes a smile, her eyes narrow.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Nicole exits bathroom, smiles cordially at Min Soo as he comes out of his room to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

He closes the door. Min removes his toothbrush, holds in his hand, turns on the water, reach for toothpaste, squeeze onto toothbrush, out comes MUSTARD.

MIN SOO
What is this? (In Korean)

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Nicole stand outside the door, laughing. The water is turned off. She walks away. Job well done.

INT. NICOLE'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Nicole picks at dinner. Everyone else devours their food. Nicole takes out her iPhone, begins to text.

Min Soo nods at Victoria and Jim.

VICTORIA
Honey, we've decided...

Nicole's baby brother leans in to Nicole, takes the phone out of her hand mid text. She lunges for the phone.

NICOLE
Give me my phone you brat...

Her baby brother runs and hides behind Jim.

VICTORIA
..to switch out your phone...

MIN SOO
High school students in Korean homes use this...

Min reaches in pocket, pulls out his flip phone. Nicole looks at his 'ALIEN' phone, back to parents.

MIN SOO (CONT'D)

We get our smart phone back when we finish school.

Nicole is light-headed, she can barely hold her head up. She closes her eyes, shakes her head, opens her eyes to see them still sitting there. She's NOT dreaming.

She stares at her parents aghast, tears begin to stream down her face then pushes her chair away from the table.

JIM

Honey let us explain.

NICOLE

(in disbelief)

I'm sorry, I just hallucinated. There's nothing to explain dad, you're all Min's puppets. So go ahead take my phone.

(To Min)

What are you, forty? You need to come down off your high horse, you might actually have some fun.

She storms out. Min watches her go, a smug grin on his face.

INT. NICOLE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Nicole slinks down onto her bed, deflated. In walks her baby brother.

BABY BROTHER

Whatcha doing?

NICOLE

Get out, you traitor.

BABY BROTHER

I'm no train. Well here, then.

He tosses a flip phone on her bed. Laughs and runs out the room.

INT. MIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Min wakes, looks at his clock which reads 8:15am, he leaps out of his bed.

MIN SOO

Oh no, I'm late! (In Korean)

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

We hear bumping around going on in Min's room, we hear him fussing to himself in Korean. Nicole laughs and walks away. She presses her phone for the time, IT READS 6:15am

Moments later, Min rushes out of the room, backpack in tow.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Min stops short when he sees everyone moving about in the kitchen. They stop and look at him. He looks at Nicole, who shrugs and winks at him. Min's eyes narrow.

VICTORIA

Min, don't you want to eat?

Min looks at the clock on the kitchen wall that READS: 6:22am
Min relaxes but is visibly shaken.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Come, sit and eat. (BEAT) You okay?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Nicole stands outside the bathroom door. Min exits.

NICOLE

Min, let's shake and call it quits.

He looks at her, confused, reluctantly extends his hand. They shake. Min's face is appalled. He looks down at his hand which is filled with Vaseline.

He wipes a hand full of Vaseline on his sweatshirt leaving a smear of oil.

MIN SOO

(angry)

UGGGGG

Nicole sees the look of sadness through his anger.

In walks an angry Victoria. Min leaves. Nicole waits to take her punishment.

NICOLE

I'm done, no more pranks.

(to Mom)

It was funny, who told him to wipe his hands on his sweatshirt.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. King passes out test papers.

MR. KING

This is the next to last test
before finals. If there is anyone
who needs extra help, please see me
after class.

He walks to Nicole's desk, places the paper face down on the desk.

MR. KING (CONT'D)

Better, Miss Andrews.

She turns the paper over to reveal a C+ in red.

Thrilled, she looks over to find Min Soo, who is not there.
She looks around the classroom, he's not there.

She pulls out her phone to text and it's her FLIP phone. She
snatches the paper off her desk, stands to leave.

NICOLE

Mr. King, may I be excused? It's an
emergency.

She runs out of the classroom.

INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Rushes in, slams the door behind her.

NICOLE

(yells)

MIN!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Runs down the hallway, swings open Min Soo's bedroom door.

INT. MIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Min lays in his bed with his back to the door. Nicole looks
around; sees a suitcase in the middle of the room, unsure of
what to do she walks to the edge of the bed.

NICOLE

(softly)

Min? Are you okay?

(MORE)

NICOLE (CONT'D)
 It's not like you to miss class.
 Why is your suitcase out, are you
 leaving? Min please look at me.

Nicole sits on the edge of the bed, places her hand on his
 shoulder, he moves away.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
 Min? I'm sorry. I went too far. I
 know you were only tryin to help.

Min turns around, sits up in the bed.

She smiles at him, grateful.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
 Please don't leave.

MIN SOO
 Why so you can trick me again?

NICOLE
 No, I'm sorry, I promise, no more
 tricks. Just stay okay? Please?

MIN SOO
 Maybe you don't care about grades.

NICOLE
 I do care. Uh-it's just hard.

Nicole drops her head, stands, fidget with her hands; walks
 to the suitcase, fidgets with the handle.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
 I do care. Can you forgive me?

Turns to Min.

He looks at her.

MIN SOO
 I forgive you. I just wanted to
 help.

NICOLE
 I know. (BEAT) How about tutoring
 me?

MIN SOO
 Tutor? No more tricks?

NICOLE
 No more tricks. Promise.

Nicole lifts the suitcase, feeling light, she realize it's empty.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
You aren't even packed...

MIN SOO
Last trick.

NICOLE
Good one Min! I taught you well.

She smiles. Holds up her hand to hi five, he hesitates, check for Vaseline. They hi five.

They laugh.

INT. NICOLE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Nicole sits in front of Min, as Min quizzes her with practice Trig questions. Books are piled high around them.

MIN SOO
We can take a break now.

NICOLE
(insecure)
Are you sure?

MIN SOO
Positive. How do you say...you really put it down this week.

NICOLE
We say that?

They laugh.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY (ONE WEEK LATER)

The classroom is quiet. Mr. King walks up and down each row checking for cheaters.

Nicole sits next to Min Soo. She looks over, he smiles to reassure her.

She scratches and scribbles on work paper; with intense focus she fills in her blanks. She glances at the clock, continues to work.

MR. KING
Pencils down. Time is up. Please
pass your papers forward.

There is a collective sigh from the class.

The class begins to pass papers forward; chatter begins. Min
Soo glances at Nicole who gives him a 'thumbs up'.

The bell rings. Students exit, Nicole and Min Soo follow
behind.

MR. KING (CONT'D)
Oh, Miss Andrews..

Nicole stops and turns around, walks to his desk.

MR. KING (CONT'D)
Thank you for getting in the game.
I knew you could do well in my
class. Good luck, Miss Andrews.

NICOLE
Thank you, Mr. King.

INT. NICOLE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Nicole sits, stares at her laptop screen.

IN ON: Computer screen Trigonometry Mid Term Exam A+

Nicole pulls the laptop closer to focus. She lets out a
screach. Leaps off the bed, runs out the room, laptop in tow.

NICOLE
MOM! I got an A, DAD!

INT. NICOLE'S FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Victoria and Jim leap off the sofa. Nicole runs to hug them,
they celebrate.

In walks Min, Nicole turns to him

MIN SOO
You got an A!

He begins to dance in a weird 'I can't dance style'.

NICOLE
I got an A!! An A, can you believe
it!

Nicole makes a face at Min's dancing. Min smiles. She begins to dance with him to their imaginary tune.

MIN SOO

I boogie down for you and your A.

NICOLE

Alright now Min, you've got moves.

Nicole's baby brother runs and joins in their victory dance.

Nicole stops dancing. Turns to parents.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Seriously, Mom, Dad, thank you,
ya'll gave up a lot for me.

(to Min)

I couldn't have done this without
you.

Nicole hugs her parents.

JIM

It was rough but you made it and
we're so proud of you.

Nicole's baby brother goes up to Nicole and hugs her and Min.

BABY BROTHER

Group hug!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - EVENING (ONE WEEK LATER)

The family, including Min Soo sit on the sofa.

NICOLE

Buy a vowel...

MIN SOO

No, solve the puzzle...

NICOLE/MIN

(slowly but not in unison)

A. Blessing. In. Disguise.

Nicole's baby brother jumps around clapping.

The volume goes up on the television. We see the 70" flat screen hanging on the wall.

Laughter fills the room.

FADE OUT:

