

Final Draft 8 Demo

BABY DOLL

Written by

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INT - IONA'S ROOM - NIGHT

On a red crayon picture of a BABY DOLL. We hear the voice of SIX YEAR OLD IONA, as she narrates.

IONA (V.O.)
Baby Adele was lonely and sad. She had no one to brush her hair, or dress her in pretty clothes.

Small hands turn a page. A crayon drawing of IONA in a party dress.

IONA (V.O.)
Iona was sad too. It was her birthday but she had no one to play with.

Another picture, a Present, wrapped in a red crayon bow.

IONA (V.O.)
Then Mommy got Iona a special present. It was Adele!

The last picture. Iona hugging Adele.

IONA (V.O.)
Adele was the baby she always wanted. Now Iona and Adele have each other. They are mommy and baby forever and ever.

She closes the handmade book. Which reads:

IONA (V.O.)
The end.

Pull back to

A child's room, pink and white and frilly. IONA, aged 6, is tucked under the coverlet, with ADELE, a beautiful china baby doll, tucked in beside her.

IONA
Did you like my story, Mommy?

MOM
It was beautiful.

IONA
Like my baby.

MOM

And now its time for little girls
and their babies to go to sleep.

MOM smiles as IONA closes her eyes.

IONA

(prays)

Dear God, bless my mommy and daddy
and best of all my baby Adele. I
promise I'll love her and take good
care of her forever and ever.
Amen.

MOM leans over and kisses IONA.

IONA (CONT'D)

Don't forget Adele.

Mom obliges, kisses Adele's serene china face.

Iona snuggles with her baby and closes her eyes. Mom softly
turns off the light.

FADE TO:

INT - IONA'S ROOM - DAY - FIVE YEARS LATER

The room has lost much of its little princess feel. Posters
of pre-teen heartthrobs are on the wall. Makeup is on the
dresser. Clothes, stuffed animals and other items are strewn
carelessly around.

We hear FOOTSTEPS on the stairs. 11 YEAR OLD IONA, mini
skirt, monster heels, dashes into the room. She's on a
mission. She starts digging through the clutter, looking
for...

IONA

(yells)

Mom, have you seen my pink sweater?

More FOOTSTEPS. Mom in the doorway, takes in the scene. She
Shakes her head.

MOM

I'm amazed you can find anything in
here.

Iona is still digging. Mom steps in to help.

They unearth the sweater. Iona grabs it up.

She crosses to her dresser, and starts putting on make-up. She has plenty to choose from.

Meanwhile, Mom has found something else in the clutter. ADELE, Iona's childhood companion, lying in a tangled heap. The doll is still beautiful, if somewhat worse for several years of wear.

Mom picks Adele up and gently cradles her, remembering a younger Iona and a simpler time.

She crosses to where her daughter is primping in the mirror. On Iona's hand a silver Chastity Promise Ring gleams.

MOM (CONT'D)

You're going out?

IONA

Sara's mom's gonna drop us at the mall.

MOM

And what are you planning to do at the mall?

IONA

You know. Hang out.

Mom sees all the makeup. She doesn't buy it.

MOM

Just you and Sara?

IONA

(evasive)
Maybe some friends.

"Friends": The code word for "Boys."

MOM

Speaking of friends. Look who I found on the floor.

She holds up ADELE. Iona shrugs, continues primping.

IONA

Oh, Adele. I knew she was around here somewhere.

MOM

I remember when you were little. You loved this dolly so much. You said you'd always take care of her.

MOM (CONT'D)

You also promised you'd take better care of your room.

IONA

She's just an old doll.

MOM

Still a promise is a promise. It doesn't seem like you're living up to a lot of yours these days. And if you can't keep a little promise, how will ever learn to keep the big ones?

Iona notices her Mom looking at the ring as she hands her the doll.

As Iona looks into Adele's serene face, her own gaze softens. Maybe Mom is right.

IONA

I'm really sorry. I'll do better... I promise. (beat) It's just a couple hours at the mall.

MOM

All right. IF you go a little lighter on the makeup. And only if you clean your room.

IONA

I will, I'll start...

MOM

...right now.

Mom gives her a quick kiss and exits. Iona addresses her doll.

IONA

(to Adele)

I'm really sorry, baby. I promise I'll take better care of you.

Iona carries Adele tenderly to the closet, where she lovingly places her on the top shelf.

IONA (CONT'D)

You'll be safe here.

A car HORN sounds. Iona glances out the window. Her ride is here.

ADELE'S POV:

Iona grabs her purse and sweater and runs out of the room, turning off the light as she goes. The room is in darkness.

FADE TO:

INT - IONA'S ROOM - DAY - 5 YEARS LATER

The room reflects the taste of a somewhat defiant teenager. Posters of metal bands, lots of electronics. Pictures of Iona and her boyfriend TED beside the makeup on the dresser. The room is still a disaster.

FOOTSTEPS pound on the stairs.

The door bangs open. SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD IONA slams into the room in a rage. She throws her jacket and backpack down on the bed.

Iona flings herself down on the bed, hand over her eyes.

Her CELL PHONE BEEPS.

Close on: TEXT message from TED, Iona's boyfriend.

TED
(TEXT MESSAGE)
"Made appt. 2morrow 3PM. U need
it?"

Beat. Then Iona replies.

IONA
(TEXT MESSAGE)
"About 2 check."

Iona holds the phone for a beat. She dumps out the contents of her backpack. Her hand, with Promise Ring still clearly visible, closes on an INSTANT PREGNANCY TEST KIT.

She hesitates, picks up the kit. Disappears into the bathroom. A beat later.

IONA (O. C.) (CONT'D)
No... No!

She comes out, face pale.

Her phone BEEPS again. Iona doesn't pick it up.

CAMERA'S POV:

TED
 (TEXT MESSAGE)
 "U there?"

Iona crosses to the mirror. She runs her hand over her stomach.

Behind her, in the mirror she sees Adele on the top shelf.
 She takes down baby doll.

IONA
 (to the doll)
 A baby. This can't happen. I'm
 not ready for this. I'm not...

She breaks off, sobbing. Her eyes dart to the picture of her boyfriend.

Her hand goes back to her stomach, an involuntary motion.

Suddenly the doll represents everything that is about to go wrong in her life. In a sudden burst of rage, she throws the doll across the room.

Adele hits the wall. Falls to the floor. Her cheek is cracked. Broken.

Iona is shocked for a beat at her own rage.

She hears FOOTSTEPS, coming up the stairs.

Iona quickly picks up the broken doll, and the test kit, shoves both out of sight in the bottom of her backpack. Just in time, as

MOM enters.

MOM
 (concerned)
 Are you OK? I heard...

IONA
 (tightly)
 Fine. Everything is fine.

Of course it isn't and they both know it.

MOM
 Did you and Ted have a fight? Do
 you want to talk...

IONA
 (screams)
 Look, just leave... me... alone...
 OK?

MOM
 (sadly)
 I wonder who you are anymore. Do
 you know?

Mom shakes her head and exits.

Iona picks up her cell phone and begins to text Ted

IONA
 (TEXT MESSAGE)
 "2morrow OK. U drive?"

On Iona,

FADE TO:

EXT - PLANNED FAMILY CLINIC - NEXT DAY

CAR pulls up across the street and parks.

INT - CAR

TED (17) and IONA sit in silence for a beat.

Ted reaches into his pocket, pulls out a wad of BILLS.

TED
 This should cover it.

She takes the money, reluctantly, in the hand that still
 wears her Promise Ring.

IONA
 Will you come with? I don't want to
 go in by myself.

Not the first time she's asked. Not the first time he's
 answered...

TED
 I can't. Look, Io, I'm sorry. I
 wish... I wish you'd been more
 careful.

IONA
 Me? What about you?

TED

Don't try to put this all on me.
This kind of stuff happens all the
time. It's no big deal.

IONA

(sotto)

It is to me.

She takes a deep breath, grabs her BACKPACK and exits the car.

Ted drives off.

Iona steels herself, walks toward the clinic entrance.

EXT - CLINIC

Iona stops a few feet short of the entrance. As she gazes at the very ordinary door, she suddenly becomes dizzy. She reaches for a nearby BENCH and sits down for a moment.

She puts her head between her legs only to look up when she's startled by a YOUNG WOMAN, mid-twenties who sits beside her.

YOUNG WOMAN

I had one of those too.

She gestures to Iona's Chastity Promise Ring. She glances at the front door of the clinic.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

I know what you're thinking.

IONA

You don't know anything about me.

YOUNG WOMAN

I know what it feels like to break every promise you ever made, and face a decision you'll carry with you the rest of your life.

She hands IONA a FLIER

Which reads: "NEW CREATION ALTERNATIVES" Christ-centered solutions for unplanned pregnancy.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

I also know you don't have to make it alone. If you're interested, they're just up the street.

Iona takes the flier but enters the clinic as the woman looks on sadly.

INT - CLINIC - WAITING ROOM

IONA takes a clipboard from the RECEPTIONIST.

RECEPTIONIST

Fill these out and we'll be right with you.

IONA sits down at a couch. Starts to fill out the paperwork. The PEN doesn't write. After a few tries, she drops it.

She opens her BACKPACK in search of a pen. Instead she finds... ADELE.

She'd forgotten she placed the doll in the backpack to hide it from her mother.

The doll's face is cracked. As she looks into the doll's broken face, she hears a baby CRYING. Instinctively, she starts to rock the baby back and forth...

Iona's eyes fill with tears. She can't do this. It's against everything she's ever believed.

She leaves the paperwork, grabs up her backpack and still holding her doll, runs from the room as the puzzled receptionist looks on.

CUT TO:

INT - IONA'S ROOM

Iona is sitting on her bed, hugging Adele.

Mom enters, takes in the scene. She comes to sit by her daughter.

MOM

What is it? What's wrong?

Iona looks up through her tears.

IONA

I was gonna throw her away. I almost threw my baby away! Oh, Mom.

Iona throws herself into her mother's arms.

MUSIC COMES UP. Without dialog, Iona confesses her condition to her mother, showing her: the broken doll, the pregnancy test kit, the flier.

As Mom begins to understand, she hugs both Iona and Adele and cries too.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT - IONA'S ROOM - A BIT LATER

Mom and Iona are still sitting on the bed. Iona gazes at her Promise Ring.

IONA (CONT'D)

I wonder what God thinks about me breaking my promise.

MOM

I think He knows how hard it is for any of us to keep a promise without His help.

IONA

I thought you'd hate me. I didn't want you to know.

MOM

I wouldn't have had this happen for the world. But... I'm so thankful you didn't turn one bad choice into a decision you'd regret for the rest of your life.

IONA

Do you think God could forgive me?

MOM

It's what He does. You just have to ask.

IONA hugs her doll and nods.

MOM (CONT'D)

I'm glad you never took off your Promise Ring.

Iona gazes at her ring.

Mother and daughter hug. The healing has begun.

IONA

Maybe we could fix up my room the way it used to be.

MOM

Maybe we can get everything back
the way it used to be. A new baby,
a new beginning.

Close on Mom daughter and Adele's serene face,

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN

INT - IONA'S ROOM - NIGHT -5 YEARS LATER

On IONA's old CRAYON PICTURE BOOK. We see a chubby little
FINGER pointing to the last page of the book: Crayon drawing
where Iona hugs Adele.

CHILD (V.O.)

Mommy and baby forever. The end.

She closes the handmade book. Pull back to reveal

The room once again looking like it belongs to a young girl.
Frilly, lots of ruffles, very clean. TWENTY ONE YEAR OLD
IONA is in bed with her FOUR YEAR OLD DAUGHTER.

CHILD

Can we read it again?

IONA

Not tonight. Its time to say your
prayers.

Iona kisses her daughter. The child starts to pray.

CHILD

Dear God: Please bless my mommy and
Gramma and my dolly too. Amen.

She takes out Adele, from under the covers. Close on her
face, which has been repaired. The scars of her brokenness
have healed. She is like new.

CHILD (CONT'D)

I love you, Mommy.

Iona regards her daughter through bright eyes.

IONA

I love you too, Adele.

She leans over, kisses her daughter.

IONA (CONT'D)
And you too.

And then kisses the doll.

Iona tiptoes to the door and turns off the light.

A single moonbeam from the window touches the sleeping faces
of the two Adeles.

Iona smiles. There is no darkness.

Final Draft 8 Demo FADE OUT.

THE END

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