

SINISTER SISTER

Written by

Vicky L. Neal

FADE IN:

INT. COLUMBUS, OHIO - HOSPITAL - BIRTHING SUITE - NIGHT

JULIE LONG (16) huffs through a contraction. A DOCTOR is ready between the stirrups. A NURSE stands by.

SUPER: 1983

DOCTOR
Give me a big push.

Julie barely finds the time to reply between contractions.

JULIE
I can't.

DOCTOR
You have to, Julie. That baby is ready. Now push!

Julie pushes with everything she's got, then lies back to catch her breath.

DOCTOR
Another.

Julie pushes again. She can't take much more.

DOCTOR
I see the head. Give me a big one.

Julie strains, the longest push yet. She relaxes. A newborn cries. The doctor hands a BABY GIRL to the nurse, who uses a towel to clean her while the doctor cuts the cord.

DOCTOR
You have a daughter.

Julie smiles to herself.

JULIE
Can I see her?

The nurse lays the baby on Julie's chest. She marvels at the tiny face.

JULIE
Hello there. I'm your mama.

Julie kisses the top of the baby's head.

INT. JULIE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The house is small, old, and in need of repair, along with a good cleaning. The room is cluttered, mostly with baby things. Complete disorganization.

KRISTIN, now one month old, cries in her bassinet parked beside the couch. Julie is on the sofa, attempting to do homework from one book out of three on the coffee table. She does a worksheet and ignores the baby.

Her mom, PATSY LONG (33), ugly dress, pops into the room.

PATSY

Shut that kid up. I'm tryin` to watch Oprah.

JULIE

I have a lot of homework to do, Ma.

Patsy charges over in confrontation mode.

PATSY

We told you that if you wanted to keep that baby, you were gonna take care of her.

JULIE

I can't keep up on my schoolwork AND take care of a baby.

PATSY

You should have thought about that before you got knocked up.

JULIE

You had me at my age.

PATSY

I was 17, and look what it did to my life. You should want more for yourself.

Hurt reflects in Julie's eyes.

PATSY

Now shut her up. I need to make a phone call.

Patsy leaves the room.

Julie lays her book aside and picks up Kristin. Her actions show frustration. Julie attempts to cuddle her baby while pacing with her.

JULIE
Shhh. You have to stop crying.

Kristin continues to cry.

JULIE
Are you hungry?

Julie sits on the couch and attempts to breastfeed Kristin. The baby quiets for a couple of moments but starts wailing again.

JULIE
Come on, Kristin. Eat.

Julie tries a little longer but fails.

JULIE
Ma!

Patsy comes to the doorway, holding a hand over a corded phone's mouthpiece.

PATSY
For heaven's sake. What is it now?

JULIE
I don't think I'm making enough milk. Maybe we should put her on formula.

PATSY
And who's gonna pay for it? The formula fairy?

JULIE
She's not eating.

PATSY
It's not my problem, Julie. You wanted to keep her, you figure it out.

Patsy returns to the phone while still in sight of Julie.

PATSY
(into phone)
It's been crazy around here ever since she brought that kid home.

Julie watches Patsy with heavy sorrow.

Patsy disappears into the next room.

PATSY (O.S.)
I wanted her to abort it but would
she listen? No.

On the verge of a breakdown, Julie looks down to the
screaming infant in her arms.

INT. INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA - FLOWER SHOP - DAY

A nice little shop. A variety of plants are on display. A
cooler with a see through door holds different types of
flowers.

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

MRS. HOWARD (50s) walks in. She moves to the counter and
looks toward the back.

MRS. HOWARD
Kristin?

KRISTIN MAYES (39), bubbly, friendly, walks into the room
with a vase of roses.

KRISTIN
Good afternoon, Mrs. Howard. What
can I do for you?

Kristin sets the vase on the counter. It becomes the focal
point of the area.

MRS. HOWARD
Those roses are lovely. Do you have
another vase just like that?

KRISTIN
You can have this one if you like.

MRS. HOWARD
It's not for me. I have a friend in
the hospital who isn't doing well.
I thought a nice flower arrangement
would brighten her spirits.

KRISTIN
I can have them delivered this
afternoon.

MRS. HOWARD
That would be wonderful.

Kristin grabs a delivery form and pen. Lays them on the
counter.

KRISTIN
If you wouldn't mind filling that
out for me.

Mrs. Howard gets to work on the form.

KRISTIN
Josh?

JOSH MAYES (16), clean-cut with a hint of bad boy, leaves the
back.

KRISTIN
You know Mrs. Howard.

JOSH
Oh, yeah. Hello.

Mrs. Howard smiles at Josh.

MRS. HOWARD
You must have grown a foot since I
last saw you.

Josh grins uneasily.

KRISTIN
(re: vase)
I'll need you to run these roses
over to the hospital when she's
done filling out the information.

JOSH
I have to finish cleaning up in the
back first.

KRISTIN
That's fine.

Josh returns to the back.

MRS. HOWARD
I bet you're so pleased that he
works with you.

Mrs. Howard hands the completed form to Kristin.

KRISTIN
I'm more pleased than he is to be
working here. It was kind of forced
on him.

Kristin rings up the purchase.