

SOMETHING OLD
(Excerpt)

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FADE IN:

EXT. BRYANT HOME - DAY

The sun shines on a modest midwestern home. A title reads "1995."

We hear the sweet harmonies of a retro girl group, singing about love and marriage (think "Goin' to the Chapel".)

INT. BRYANT HOME - TRINA'S BEDROOM - DAY

MONTAGE:

- A) A wedding veil is draped across a desk.
- B) Golden dandelions are arranged lovingly in a Dixie cup.
- C) A teddy bear propped in the corner has a hair bow tied around his neck like a bow tie.
- D) Two Ring-Pops rest on a throw pillow.
- E) Little feet step into an overlarge pair of sparkly heels.
- F) Two girls look at themselves in the mirror. YOUNG GABBY SUAREZ (8), plump and spirited, smirks at the sparkly heels paired with her white nightgown. YOUNG TRINA BRYANT (8), dainty and graceful, earnestly examines her First Communion dress and pearls.

YOUNG TRINA
Are the pearls too much?

END MONTAGE.

Gabby selects a gaudy rhinestone choker from the pile of jewelry.

YOUNG GABBY
Girl, please. Pearls are never too much.

YOUNG TRINA
But will Bravery Bear like it?

YOUNG GABBY
I dunno. Let's ask him. What do you think, Bravery Bear?

Gabby swoops up the bow-tied bear.

YOUNG GABBY (CONT'D)
 (as Bravery Bear)
 I think boys don't know squat about jewelry and you should wear whatever you want.

YOUNG TRINA
 What are you doing? He can't see me before the wedding!

Trina nabs the bear, and sets him down facing the corner.

YOUNG TRINA (CONT'D)
 Who are you marrying?

YOUNG GABBY
 Jonathan Taylor Thomas. Duh.

YOUNG TRINA
 Well what would you do if he didn't like your sparkly necklace?

YOUNG GABBY
 If JTT doesn't like my ice, he does not have to marry me.

YOUNG TRINA
 I wish I had a dress that fit you.

YOUNG GABBY
 Nah. It's all about the accessories.

Gabby seizes a Wonder Woman crown out of her backpack.

YOUNG TRINA
 You can't wear a superwoman crown at your wedding!

YOUNG GABBY
Wonder Woman. And I definitely can.

She pulls it over her forehead. Trina admires her.

YOUNG TRINA
 Actually, you're right. It's perfect on you.

Trina places the veil gingerly on her head, and looks to Gabby for approval.

YOUNG GABBY
 That's great. Let's show Mom! I mean, your mom.

Gabby dashes out. Trina follows, a little hesitantly.

INT. BRYANT HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

The windowless hallway is dark and quiet. A faint light comes from a partly open door at one end.

Gabby runs in, laughing.

YOUNG TRINA

Shhh!

Gabby goes quiet as Trina catches up to her and whispers.

YOUNG TRINA (CONT'D)

We have to be quiet here.

Trina steps forward and pads deliberately down the hall.

Gabby steps on a creaky board, and the sound fills the silent hall. Trina glares back at her friend, who mouths "sorry," then both move forward with extra care.

INT. BRYANT HOME - MARIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

The door creaks as Gabby and Trina gently push it open.

A hospital bed is in the middle of the darkened room. A person lies covered in blankets, hooked up to an IV and apparently asleep. Raspy breathing can be heard.

YOUNG TRINA

Mama?

There is no response. Gabby and Trina look at each other, then step carefully into the room.

A hand grabs Gabby's shoulder.

KATARINA (O.S.)

Topánky a choroba!

YOUNG GABBY

Aaaah!

A wiry, stern-looking Slovak woman has Gabby in a tight grasp. This is KATARINA VAVRA (56).

KATARINA

We never, ever wear shoes in room
of the sick.

Katarina points at Gabby's sparkly dress-up shoes.

KATARINA (CONT'D)
Take off.

YOUNG GABBY
The shoes make my outfit.

KATARINA
You want to track demons in?

YOUNG TRINA
We wanted to show Mom our--

KATARINA
Vytrzníci! You will wake her.

MARIA BRYANT (33) sits up in her bed and smiles weakly.

MARIA
It's okay. I'm already awake. Come
in, girls.

Katarina strikes a match and lights a swinging incense burner shaped like a goat's head.

KATARINA
We must not leave any cracks for
demon to come in. You are already
vulnerable.

Katarina swings the incense around the girls. Gabby wrinkles her nose.

KATARINA (CONT'D)
Time of stress, time of conflict.
That is when it finds a way in.

MARIA
You see demons everywhere, Aunt
Katarina. I only see angels.

Maria pats the space next to her on the mattress.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Come here, pumpkin.

Trina hops up with her mom. Gabby hangs back by the doorway until Maria motions her forward as well.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Look how fancy you two are! Gabby,
your mother would have been proud
to have such a beautiful daughter.

YOUNG GABBY
We're getting married today.

MARIA
Well, I hope you'll treat each other with respect and kindness.

YOUNG TRINA
Not to each other! I'm marrying Bravery Bear and she's marrying the boy from Home Improvement.

MARIA
Well you should still...

She trails off and closes her eyes.

YOUNG TRINA
Mama?

Maria stirs again, weakly.

MARIA
Still treat each other with respect and kindness. And your grooms, too.

YOUNG TRINA
I will, mama.

MARIA
I'm so happy I got to see you on your wedding day.

Maria starts coughing.

KATARINA
(to Trina)
Dievcatká, there is kolache in kitchen. Go, eat.

Katarina shoos Gabby and Trina away and helps Maria sit up as her coughing continues.

INT. BRYANT HOME - HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Trina lingers in the doorway, watching her mother struggle for breath.

Gabby looks at Trina with a knowing sadness. She takes her hand, and the two girls stand together, watching quietly.

INT. BRYANT HOME - KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Trina and Gabby munch Slovak sticky buns in silence. Gabby regards Trina with worry.

YOUNG GABBY

So... tell me again what your real wedding dress will look like.

Trina cracks a smile.

YOUNG TRINA

Well... I think it'll be kind of princessy. Not, like, with poofy sleeves. But so pretty...

EXT. MIMI'S BRIDAL SHOP - DAY

A boutique window displays classic, tasteful dresses.

A title reads "PRESENT DAY."

INT. MIMI'S BRIDAL SHOP - DAY

Several women dig through racks of bridal gowns.

BRIDE #1

No low-cut dresses. You're not allowed to look hotter than I do on my wedding day.

BRIDE #2

I just started a wedding blog. I'll let you advertise on it if you give it to me half-off.

BRIDE #3

You can't afford the silk? I look like a corpse in polyester.

GABBY (now 27) hears the last bride and rolls her eyes. She leans against a fitting room door.

GABBY

How's it going in there, Trina?

TRINA (O.S.)

We're almost done buttoning. This one's a lot of fuss.

MIMI (O.S.)

Good dress. Stubby fingers.

TRINA (O.S.)

Do you want to go get some coffee?

GABBY

Sure, what would you like?

TRINA (O.S.)

I mean for you. You don't have to stay here with me.

GABBY

Do you seriously think I'd let you shop for your wedding dress alone?

TRINA (O.S.)

Um, Gabby?

GABBY

Not gonna happen.

TRINA

Gabs?

GABBY

Your mother would haunt me if I let that happen.

TRINA (O.S.)

I think I've found it.

GABBY

Well, get out here, lady!