

A Chance Taken

Script entry
for the
Art of Peace Challenge

By Mariah Barton

A Chance Taken

Characters:

Young boy and girl, teenage boy and girl, nearly-adult boy and girl, woman and dog, classmates, teachers.

***Optional:**

Song: *You Belong to Me* by Jason Wade

*Also: "**EXT.**" means exterior; a scene in the outdoors.
"**INT.**" means interior; a scene indoors.

INT. BIRTHDAY PARTY -- DAY

1970s-styled, wood-paneled living room where giggly happy girls sit attending a birthday party. . One sad girl sits frowning amidst the fun the party, not participating. Camera zooms in on her face.

CUTS TO:

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Boy sits amongst other students at a cafeteria table, slumped over his food angrily.

FADE OUT.

NARRATOR

Every year in Canada, up to 360 000 children are exposed to domestic violence.

Quote reference appears below: "- Behind Closed Doors, The Impact of of Domestic Violence on Children, Joint report by Unicef, The Body Shop International and the Secretariat for the United Nations Secretary - General's Study on Violence against children, 2006"

CUTS TO:

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Same boy, older, sits amongst other kids at the same table.

BOY SITS AT TABLE.

Boy, sad and secluded, gets up to leave, takes tray to empty it at garbage and place tray in pile on table near the exit. He sets it down angrily atop other trays. Tray slips off and clatters noisily to the floor. Walks past lunch line up where teachers are also getting their lunch. Few take notice of his anger and the tray and the teachers ignore him. Boy heads towards doors and roughly pushes some students aside as he tries to get out of the room quickly.

CUTS TO:

INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM

Girl sits amongst stuffed animals, and dolls; setting them up to play a tea-party game. Dark shadowy room; girl's hair is unkepmt. Wearing old clothes.

SHOT ABOVE GIRL'S LEFT SIDE SHOWS DOLL FALLING OVER DUE TO UNEVEN BEDDING.

Girl gets angry and hits all her animal and doll toys off the bed. Sits pathetically observing the mess now on her floor.

FADE OUT.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

Boy, now a young teenager, stomps out the door, roughly pushing the doors apart to let himself outside to an empty school yard. Wearing jeans, a jean jacket, and old sneakers. Picks up a rock and angrily throws it at a tree hoping to hit some birds, but misses. Picks up a bigger rock, looks at it in his hand, and looks up to see a car parked a few yards away - a tempting target.

FADES OUT SLOWLY AS AUDIANCE HEARS WINDOW BREAK.

NARRATOR

Those exposed to family violence and bullying can be and are as affected as those who recieve the abuse.

CUTS TO:

EXT. STREET

Dreary, rainy weather greets young adult as he angrily exits the store where he was just fired from his position as the shop owner's assistant. Stomps down the couple of stairs, kicks at pop-can, nearly missing a car and a lady walking her dog. He is wearing jeans and a tough looking jacket. Lady is surprised and a little scared of his roughness towards her. He angrily walks down the sloping wet street where it had been raining moments before.

CUTS TO:

INT. DARK KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Older teenage girl sits at a small old kitchen table, and fearfully pours herself a cup of vodka, setting the vodka bottle down beside the glass when she has finished. Takes a sip with tears in her eyes, trying to convince herself this is the way to douse pain.

FADE OUT.

NARRATOR

Children are being taught that there is no consequences for hurtful
(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
behaviour. If nothing is done,
imagine their future in 10 years.

SHOT SHOWS JAIL CELL DOOR ROLLING SHUT AND LOCK LOCKING
SECURELY.

CUTS TO:

INT. CAFETERIA

Boy again, sitting as a youngster at the end of the table,
amongst students. A teacher gets up and comes to sit with
the little boy. Sits across from him. Teacher takes a cookie
out of her bag for herself and the little boy, and offers
one to him as well. Boy looks up sadly and she cheerfully
coaxes him to take it.

SHOT SHOWS BOY AND WOMAN TALKING, BOY EATING COOKIE, AND
EVENTUALLY, BOTH OF THEM CONTINUING THEIR CONVERSATION
DESPITE FINISHING THEIR FOOD.

Boy becomes more lively as he begins to get to know her.

FADES OUT.

NARRATOR
For prevention of family violence,
call 310-1818 or call 1-888-
456-2323 for help with bullying to
end the hurt now. We understand.
It starts with you.

INT. CAFETERIA

Camera watches as a mature young man opens the door of the
school to a bright shining cheerful world, leaving a dark
school behind, and wrapping his arm around the shoulder of
an older female teacher, who helped him overcome his abusive
home situation.

THE END.