

THE GIRL IN THE DARK

DIRECTOR : MATHEW MUTHINI

CHARACTERS

Amelia - victim

Nova - friend

Joe - friend

Mrs. Hawkins - mother

Father - Mr. Hawkins

CPS - Child protective services

Bianca - principal

Parlegi - student

Mr. Matatu - teacher

SYNOPSIS

13 year old Amelia has suffered in silence for so long. With no end in sight and not knowing who to trust, she considers giving up until... she meets her knight in shining armor. Remember not all heroes wear capes and words do hurt.

INT. BEDROOM. DAY

The young girl laying on the floor, by her bed, covered in bruises, whimpering in pain. she's crying out for help but not a peep is heard in response. An average room, littered in clothes and dust, barely anything inside but a rotting mattress in place of a bed and a cardboard box as a table.

AMELIA'S SOLILOQUOY

Ouch! it really hurt this time. You are most likely wondering why I'm rolling around on the floor. Little backstory, my parents - not the best people. They hit me and call me names. Does it hurt? YES! Do I really care? No! I've gotten used to the name calling, Why? because for 6 years, they never failed to remind me how much of an abomination I am, while my brother - he cant seem to do anything wrong in their eyes. Not going to lie, I do envy my brother and friends, while they are out enjoying their childhood, I'm covering bruises. I don't ask for help because its the 21st century so you never know who to trust and who not to. I was getting dressed for school, I don't even know how I ended up with a black eye.

MIR: hey, are you okay? (*knocks and opens door in worry*)

AMELIA : Yeah I'm fine! (*breathes heavily, trying to hide the bruises*)

MIR: Don't lie to me, They hit you again didn't they? If this goes on longer, I have to tell someone.

AMELIA: NO, I'm fine! we're going to miss the bus if we don't leave now, lets go!

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL. DAY

AMELIA: (*waving at friends*) Hey guys! How was your weekend?

(NOVA notices dark marks on her arm)

MIR: Come on, lets go, we're goi-
(NOVA interrupts Mir)

NOVA: Are those bruises?!

AMELIA: (*panics*) What! no i-i just fell down the stairs.

Joe: Why is she stuttering? (*whispers to NOVA*)

AMELIA: Forget about it! lets just go, i don't want to be late for Mr. Matatu's lesson.

NOVA: Fine...

(Bell rings as they enter class)

(MR.MATATU: Ah! you made it just in time, today we are going to be learning about abuse)

(Sarcastic cheers heard around the class)

MR.MATATU: Yeah yeah but between you and me, i don't want to teach this either. So can someone tell me what abuse is

PARLEGI: sir I think that abuse is like misuse of something like drugs

(NOVA - Raises hand There are a lot of kinds of abuse but one of them would be physical abuse, like treating someone with violence)

MR MATATU: Those are all good definitions and yes there different kinds of abuse but today we will be talking about physical abuse. So does anyone know a relative or a friend who has gone through abuse or is going through abuse?

(Amelia gets nervous and starts fidgeting)

(Muttering goes around class and a bunch of "no" "nobody i know" are heard)

MR.MATATU: Today's task is going to be to write down all the types of abuse you know and the definitions

CUT TO:

INT. AMELIA'S HOUSE. EVENING

Father: Why are you so late?!

Amelia: Sorry father (*Scared*)

Father: Go do your homework, I don't want to see you!

Amelia: yes father...

Amelia's POV (the next morning)

I couldn't go to school today, they were too many bruises to cover up and not enough foundation. i just stayed in my room all day, out of sight of that man that i called my father.

NOVA's POV

NOVA: why didn't she come to school today

Joe: I'm not sure maybe she didn't do her homework

NOVA: I'm not joking I'm scared, what if something happened to her (*nervous*)

Joe: Come on, its Amelia we're talking about the most trouble she could get into is slipping over a banana peel and breaking her leg

NOVA: I'm going to check on her after this lesson is over

Joe: I'll come with you

NOVA: no way, I'm going alone, we both cant skive the lesson, we'll get into deep trouble

Joe: You know how Mr. Romero is, if you go alone, who knows what he'll do so I'll come with you

NOVA: Fine whatever..

CUT TO:

INT. AMELIA'S HOUSE

Joe: should we knock?

NOVA: You knock!

Joe: I'm not knocking

NOVA: fine, lets just go to her bedroom window

(Knocks on bedroom window)

Joe: Wait! isn't that Mr.Romero

NOVA: yea, duck!

(MR.ROMERO HITTING HER DAUGHTER)

NOVA: Is he hitting her?!

(They rush to the school)

Joe: Principal's office!!! Right now.

(At the office)

MS. BIANCA'S POV:

(O.T.P)

"Good evening, principal. we are sorry to disturb you but there's something horrible going on (explains situation)"

"Oh my god! thankyou for reporting this, we will look into it (calls CPS)"

CPS OFFICE. NIGHT

Bianca: Hello, could we consult you about the call we received a few moments ago

CPS: Do you have any evidence

Bianca: Yes Her friends were passing by and witnessed it live, judging by the condition of the room to the house it looked quite obvious.

AMELIA'S HOUSE. NIGHT

(**police sirens heard**)

Amelia: Why are the cops here?
(**sweating nervously**)

CPS: Miss, we've been informed that something's been going on, are you okay?! Where is your father?

Father: I did not do anything, why are you handcuffing me?! What did you tell them!? You little-

Amelia: Leave him! He did nothing to me (**sobbing**)

CPS: Miss, please we have evidence that abuse has taken place.
(**Amelia faints into officer's arms**)
CPS: MRS HAWKINS, why did you not report this earlier?

Mrs. Hawkins: (**sobs**) he threatened me, he said he would kill her

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL. DAY

(**Amelia wakes up**)

Mrs. Hawkins : I'm so sorry I couldn't protect you

Joe: you'll get better soon, don't worry

