

"The Bad Cat "

by

Chris Messineo

293 Charnwood Road  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
CMessineo@OffStageFilms.com  
(908) 508-1942

FIRST DRAFT

"THE BAD CAT"

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FADE IN:

INT. LITTLE GIRL'S BED ROOM - DAY

A small fish tank sits atop a child's dresser. Tiny pebbles rest in the base and bubbles gently rise out of a sunken treasure chest. There are no fish.

Next to the fish tank, a hamster cage contains wood chips, a water feeder, and a hamster wheel. There is no hamster.

In the corner of this little girl's room hangs a beautiful bird cage. The gate is open and there is no bird.

On the floor of the room there are several yellow feathers.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

In a secluded corner of the yard, surrounded by trees, a six year old GIRL kneels on the ground.

The girl sits in a makeshift pet cemetery.

A small cross made from popsicle sticks reads, "Bubbles".

Next to Bubbles, sporting another crudely fashioned cross, rests "Fuzzy".

Finally, a shallow grave, a foot deep, has been dug in front of the girl.

In the grave she tenderly places a shoe box and then drops in wild flowers. Slowly, she pushes the dirt with her hands on top of the fresh grave. A third popsicle cross slides into the ground, "Feathers".

A lone tear runs down her cheek. She wipes it away with her dirty hand and looks back toward the house.

The back door is ajar and standing just outside is her cat.

The girl's face shifts from sadness to anger, white hot anger.

The cat scurries inside.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: Stuffed Animals

The girl closes the back door. Windows are slammed shut. The front door is locked. The house is sealed.

Methodically, room by room, the girl searches.

She goes down one set of stairs and the cat comes down another behind her.

She crawls around one side of a sofa while the cat rounds the far corner. She turns just in time to see the cat run up the stairs and into her room. The girl follows.

In her room, the girl scans for the cat, but the cat is hiding.

The girl whips open the closet door. Nothing.

She searches under the bed. Nothing.

Rising, she is confused. On top of the bed sit a dozen of her favorite stuffed animals. Nestled amongst them, a face in the crowd, is the cat.

The girl doesn't notice her and starts to leave. Then, as if sensing something the girl slowly turns and leaps onto the bed both hands extended. There is a frenzied flurry of stuffed animals and the girl is left grasping a toy cat.

The real cat escapes and races out of the room.

SUPER: Dirty Dishes

Chasing after the cat, the girl is led to the kitchen.

The cat is on the counter.

The girl climbs precariously on the counter and slowly crawls after the cat, across the stove, and corners it by the sink.

The girl lunges for the cat, knocks over a cannister of flour, and falls into a sink filled with water and dirty dishes.

The cat disappears in a cloud of white smoke.

The girl rises from the debris.

The kitchen is a mess.

She briefly looks defeated until she spots a tiny trail of white flour paw prints left in the ground.

SUPER: Salty

The girl follows the paw prints, quietly stalking her prey.

They lead upstairs, into her parents' room and into a closet; the door is open a crack.

The girl crouches on all fours, readying for the attack.

She throws the door open.

The cat leaps at her face, slashing her, knocking her backwards, and running off.

The girl sits up, wipes at the blood on her face, and touches a drop to her tongue.

Her anger and determination reaches a fever pitch.

SUPER: The Long Way Down

Leaving her parents' room, at the top of the stairs, the girl spies the cat crawling into a long plastic play tube.

The little girl drops to the ground and crawls in after her.

The cat emerges from the other side.

The girl is still in the tube and the cat knows it.

The cat runs at the tube and it turns towards the stairs.

The tube hits the top step as if in slow motion and picks up pace as it careens wildly down the stairs with the girl in it.

It finally ends its bumpy ride as it spits the girls out and she lies silent on the living room floor.

SUPER: Face to Face

The little girl is battered, bruised, bloodied, and unconscious.

The bad cat warily wanders over, sniffing at her victim.

Her eyes still shut, the girl's hand rockets out and grabs the cat by the scruff of the neck.

The girls sits up and holds her prey as they stare at each other, face to face.

FADE OUT.

The End Credits roll.

FADE IN:

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Back at the pet cemetery, another cross goes into the ground, "Princess".

The little girl smiles.

FADE OUT.