



# “Behind The Family Portrait”

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Scene 1 Living Room

As scene begins, Samantha is in the living room after just having another episode with Dad.

Samantha: (talking to the walls): Why does he do this? What is it that makes him so violent? I know that he doesn't mean to hurt me. Am I doing something wrong? I mean I really try to please him. I know I must disappoint him. Sometimes I wonder how much I can take. Doesn't he know that I have feelings too? What should I do? I'm running out of answers. There's got to be an answer somewhere.

Matt enters the room.

Matt: Sam, what's wrong? Did he hit you again? What happened?

Dad: (yelling in the background) Do you people ever do anything productive around here?

Samantha: Matt, it was all my fault; I didn't finish the dishes.

Dad enters.

Matt: (explodes) Dad, I told you what would happen if you ever hit Mom or Sam again!

Dad: (sarcastically) Who do you think you are Mike Tyson? Give it your best shot. Go ahead. (He turns to get another drink).

Mom: (walks in) What is going on here? Sam what happened to your eye?

Sam: Nothing.

Matt: Nothing my foot. Dad has been up to his mess again.

Dad: Why don't you go mow the lawn.

Matt: Why don't you quit taking your problems out on all of us.

Mom: Why don't you two just cut it out. Chris, help your sister. Hank, can I please talk to you.. alone?

Hank and June exit.

Matt: Sam, I want to hit him so bad.

Sam: You can't do that Matt. He doesn't even realize what he is doing. He is just frustrated.

Matt: Yeah, every day too.

Sam: He's out of work. Worrying about paying the bills. I wish there were some answer to this mess. I can't go on like this. Our home is like hell on earth. There's got to be something that can help us. Counseling, anything.

Matt: There's no help for him. He won't listen. All he cares about is himself. He hits us, yells, screams.

Sam: Come on, I'm gonna do those dishes.

Matt: Well, I'm outta here. (Matt heads towards the door).

Sam: When are you coming home?

Matt: Whenever.

Sam and Matt exit Living Room