

MOTHER KNOWS BEST

Written by

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Based on a true story

FADE IN:

INT. BIOTECH HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

JENNY, a small brunette girl with bright eyes and two pigtails walks around in her posh pink track suit. SONAL and LAURA VORBACH, Jenny's two best friends, walk beside her loudly chewing gum.

JENNY (V.O.)
Everybody knows that turning 16 is
the single most important milestone
in your life.

The two walk directly into a group of students, and the plebes part like the Red Sea.

JENNY (V.O.)
It's a coming of age. It's the
symbol of growth. It's the day my
Pop gives me his 1984 Jeep
Cherokee.

(FLASHBACK)

EXT. JENNY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jenny stands next to her dad, ROMAN's, car as he cleans the tires with a rag.

ROMAN
No.

JENNY
BUT POP, I'm turning 16!

ROMAN
No.

(END FLASHBACK)

INT. BIOTECH HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

JENNY (V.O.)
Or at least, like, the day I get a
permit.

Sonal passes out a flyer to a girl filing her nails. The girl has massive hair and is so orange she looks like she's been rolling around in cheeto dust.

JENNY

Sweet 16. At the shore.

SONAL

Hottest event of the year. You don't want to miss it.

LAURA

There's gonna be a chocolate fountain AND a dance floor.

The flyer is extremely colorful and has sparkles all over. "Jenny's Sweet 16" is emblazoned smack in the center and her face appears on the flyer in 5 different locations.

Sonal frantically taps Jenny's shoulder.

SONAL

Oh my god. Look, look.

Jenny looks up to see IAN WILLIAMSON on the tarmac right outside the huge cafeteria windows. Suddenly, the rest of the cafeteria is a huge blur, and Ian holds the spotlight. He flips his hair, Justin Bieber style, as he holds a basketball.

JENNY

Oh god. Ian Williamson.

JENNY (V.O.)

Love of my life.

He shoots the basketball and completely misses the hoop by at least 6 feet. The spotlight immediately goes away.

LAURA

Oh...

Sonal and Jenny laugh.

JENNY

God he's so cute. And so unathletic.

SONAL

Ask him to come to your bday.

JENNY

I would rather eat 6 million pounds of molten chocolate.

SONAL

Okay, random. Whatever, it's still gonna be a baller bday without him.

LAURA

Is Dr. Jenny's Mother gonna make an appearance?

JENNY

Oh shit. I forgot to tell her.

INT. JENNY'S KITCHEN - DAY

INNA, Jenny's mother, holds the flyer with Jenny's face plastered all over. She is wearing scrubs and has a thick Russian accent.

INNA

Absolutely not.

JENNY

WHAT?!?! Why not?!?! Literally you never let me do anything fun.

INNA

It says the party's on October 23rd.

JENNY

Okay, and...?

INNA

Your birthday is October 25th.

JENNY

You're kidding me right now. That's the only day I can do it! The 25th is a Monday, mom.

INNA

You know my superstitions. No celebrations before the actual day.

JENNY (V.O.)

That's not even the worst of her superstitions.

(FLASHBACK SEQUENCE)

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

JENNY (V.O.)
Don't sit on the corner of the
table.

Inna wags her finger at Jenny sitting on the corner of a
table.

JENNY (V.O.)
Bad luck.

INT. JENNY'S FOYER - DAY

JENNY (V.O.)
Don't walk over people.

Inna shakes her head at Jenny stepping over her friend.

JENNY (V.O.)
They won't grow.

INT. JENNY'S KITCHEN TABLE - NIGHT

JENNY (V.O.)
Don't spill salt at dinner.

Inna gives Jenny a death glare when she spills salt on the
plaid tablecloth.

JENNY (V.O.)
You lose money.

EXT. JENNY'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

JENNY (V.O.)
Don't hug over a doorframe.

Inna wags her finger as Jenny hugs her friend over a
doorframe.

JENNY (V.O.)
Bad luck.

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - DAY

JENNY (V.O.)
Don't whistle in the house.

Inna suddenly appears in Jenny's room just as Jenny is about to purse her lips and whistle.

JENNY (V.O.)
Bad luck.

(END FLASHBACK)

INT. JENNY'S KITCHEN - DAY

JENNY
Mom, you're not just superstitious,
you're like megastitious. You're
literally the only person in the
entire world who believes this
stuff.

INNA
Yeah, well you would believe it too
if you escaped the Soviet Union
with five cents in your pocket.

(FLASHBACK)

EXT. SOVIET UNION MOUNTAIN - DAY

Inna trudges through the snow in a massive wool jacket with 5 goats. The goats bah. She leans her head back to take a sip from her water bottle and no water comes out.

(END FLASHBACK)

INT. JENNY'S KITCHEN - DAY

JENNY (V.O.)
She has a point.

INNA
Look, Jenny, you can still have
your party. But don't say I didn't
warn you. Mother always knows best.

JENNY (V.O.)
Good enough for me.

(FLASH FORWARD)

INT. JENNY'S PARTY VENUE - DAY

Jenny dances and interacts with her guests. She yells over the music to Sonal.

JENNY
Is this not the best party of the century?

SONAL
Literally so good.

JENNY
Just wait till Snooki gets here.

SONAL
Huh?

(DAYDREAM SEQUENCE)

Snooki bursts through the door, looking as orange as ever.

SNOOKI
Happy Sweet 16, Jersey girl.

Snooki plants a huge kiss on Jenny's cheek and gives an audible "MWAH."

(END DAYDREAM SEQUENCE)

SONAL
Oh my god, Ian Williamson is here.

Jenny snaps back to reality.

JENNY
You're kidding.

Ian Williamson stands in the middle of the dance floor, once again illuminated by a fake spotlight. He flips his Justin Bieber hair.

JENNY (V.O.)
Marry me.

SONAL
He's so perfect.

JENNY
I know.

LAURA

Wait, omg, let's go set up the chocolate fountain. I heard Ian Williamson loves chocolate fountains.

INT. JENNY'S PARTY VENUE KITCHEN - DAY

Jenny pours a bag of chocolate chips into a bowl and shoves it into the microwave, setting it for 5 minutes.

JENNY

Five minutes right?

LAURA

Yeah, I feel like that makes sense.

Jenny dances to "Party in the USA" as she takes the cheap plastic fountain out of its box.

JENNY

Put my hands up, I'm playing my song, the butterflies fly away!

Laura sniffs the air.

LAURA

Smells like it's kind of burning, no?

JENNY

Nodding my head like yeah, moving my hips like yeah!

They keep dancing. The microwave beeps and Laura takes the bowl out. Jenny glances over.

JENNY (V.O.)

That looks kinda viscous.

Laura lifts the bowl over the plastic fountain.

Wait, Laura, what are you doing?

LAURA

Just pouring it in.

JENNY

No wait, it's too viscous!

Laura pours the first drop.

JENNY (CONT'D)
NO! I SAID IT'S TOO VISCOUS!

Jenny reaches under the bowl with her right hand, and suddenly, the world moves in slow motion.

(SLOW MOTION)

The song "Only Time" by Enya plays, and no diegetic sounds can be heard. The song goes "Who can say where the road goes, where the day flows, only time?"

The molten chocolate lands square on her hand. She yells in extreme agony for 30 seconds straight. Sonal rushes in and pulls her hand into the kitchen sink, running it under water.

Jenny continues screaming.

The red and blue lights of ambulances can be seen through the window. Paramedics wrap Jenny's hand and put her on a stretcher.

She screams as she's rolled backwards out of the door, and Ian Williamson stares with wide eyes in disbelief.

Sonal and Laura also stare in disbelief from the kitchen.

Jenny makes a huge scene, kicking and screaming.

(END SLOW MOTION)

INT. BIOTECH HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Inna brings Jenny through the front door, placing her hand on Jenny's shoulder. Jenny walks into the foyer of the school with a wrap around her hand, and students on either side look at her from the corner of their eyes, whispering to each other.

GIRL 1

I heard she was making s'mores
while camping and then got into a
fist fight with a bear.

GIRL 2

I heard NASA hired her to build a
rocket and she put her hand
directly into the jet fuel.

GIRL 3

I heard she got Syphillis from Ian
Williamson and her fingers fell
off.

Inna still stands by the door and watches Jenny walk away.

JENNY (V.O.)

Oh god, oh god, oh god. This is so
embarrassing.

Inna hears the whispers and loudly announces what actually
happened.

INNA

No, actually. She celebrated her
birthday early. And then put her
hand under a burning bowl of
chocolate because it was too
viscous.

JENNY (V.O.)

FML. I guess mother really does
know best.

FADE OUT