

Freddie follows. He grabs a piece of chocolate from the candy bowl and pops it in his mouth. He chews, turns, opens his mouth, and sticks his tongue out at Sally. She just stares, unfazed. He laughs to himself.

SALLY

Is daddy mad?

MOM

No honey, it's nothing. Just work stuff.

Sally crosses to the counter. She stands on her tiptoes and presses her chin to the counter to get a better view.

Mom's eyes remain fixated on chopping.

SALLY

Can I help?

MOM

Why don't you go play?

SALLY

Nobody wants to play.

MOM

Then go and get dressed.

SALLY

I am dressed.

Mom looks down at Sally, who stands in her dress and fancy shoes, ribbons in her pigtails.

Mom smiles, sad.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I wanna help.

Mom rubs her forehead, pushing her headache away.

MOM

I don't know, Sally. Why don't you go get the potatoes.

SALLY

The potatoes?

MOM

Yeah. From the pantry. That would be a big help.

Sally smiles.

INT. PANTRY - MOMENTS LATER

Sally frowns. She stares at the massive crate of potatoes in the giant pantry.

MONTAGE:

--Sally tries to carry the crate. Too heavy.

--Sally tries to push the crate. Won't budge.

--Sally carries the potatoes in her dress. They fall with a big THUD on the floor.

--Sally picks up a potato and sniffs it.

--Sally squints one eye to match a potato with one eye. It almost looks like it's winking back at her. She giggles.

A VOICE with a thick Polish accent calls out.

MAGDALENA (O.S.)

Sally? What are you doing in there?

Sally peeks out of the pantry. MAGDALENA (50's) passes as she pushes one of those fancy 3-bin laundry hampers down the hallway.

SALLY

Nothing!

Sally watches as Magdalena stops with the hamper at a bedroom. She leans into the doorframe.

MAGDALENA

(calling into the room)

Mariah?

Sally thinks. That rolling hamper looks like it can hold a lot of potatoes...

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

(calling down the hall)

Mariah?

Magdalena walks down the hall and turns the corner, out of sight.

Sally sprints for the laundry hamper.

She starts to push it back toward the pantry when she spots something on Mariah's bed.

CUT TO:

INT. MARIAH'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sally wears Mariah's short black party dress over her poofy Christmas dress. She looks at herself in the mirror.

She picks up a tube of dark red lipgloss from the vanity. She thinks about coloring her lips red, but instead paints two stripes across her cheeks, like a football player. She clenches her face, tough.

Suddenly Sally hears FOOTSTEPS and VOICES in the hall.

She rips off the dress, throws it back on the bed, and looks for an exit plan.

The VOICES and FOOTSTEPS get closer.

No way out...

Sally remembers the hamper. She bolts toward it, jumps in the center section, and covers herself in some dirty clothes from Mariah's floor. She ducks down just as...

...Mariah enters, carrying an assortment of items from the bathroom. Magdalena calls out from the hall as she passes:

MAGDALENA (O.S.)

Clothes in the hamper, Mariah. I need to start the laundry before everyone arrives, or you'll have nothing to wear for your trip.

MARIAH

Okayyyy, okay.

CLOSE ON SALLY: She holds her breath under the clothes.

Mariah grabs some shirts strewn about her room and throws them into the hamper.

CLOSE ON SALLY: She clenches her eyes as more clothes pile on her.

Mariah reaches into a small drawer and grabs a bathing suit, few thongs, and a bra. She tosses them in.

CLOSE ON SALLY: She examines the bra. She's never seen one this close before.

Mariah sets her phone on her vanity and plays a YouTube video. She watches a TEENAGE YOUTUBER who stands in their bathroom holding a tampon.

CLOSE ON SALLY: She peeks one eye out of the hamper.