

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM

SARA (70s/80s, African descent) enters carrying a tray with a glass and a cookie on it. She smiles at IONA (5, mixed race), who sits on the floor coloring at the coffee table.

SARA  
Got your snack.

Iona doesn't respond. She's lost in her artwork.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Iona, honey.

Iona still doesn't respond. Sara puts down the tray.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Iona.

Sara waves her hand in front of Iona's face as she still doesn't respond. Iona snaps to attention. She looks up and smiles.

IONA  
Hey, Granny!

SARA  
Didn't you hear me calling you?

Iona shakes her head. Sara tries to glance at Iona's drawing but Iona's arm blocks her view.

SARA (CONT'D)  
I'd love to see what you drew.

Iona smiles brightly at Sara and Sara returns the smile. Iona shows the paper that has a tree with large gnarled roots and a child wearing a hat but has no face. The feet face backward. Sara's smile drops.

SARA (CONT'D)  
(almost a whisper)  
Why did you draw this?

Iona looks at her drawing and points to the tree and the child.

IONA  
That's a magic tree and my friend  
Marisol.

Sara looks at Iona with worry

SARA  
Your friend?

IONA  
Yea! We run and play. Can we go  
outside now?

SARA  
Yes, but first eat your snack.

A phone rings and Sara leaves the room. Iona quickly eats her cookie and drinks her juice. She runs to the door, puts on her shoes and goes outside.

EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - YARD

Iona blows some bubbles and jumps around to pop them.

MARISOL (O.S.)  
Iona.

Iona stops and looks back at the house.

MARISOL (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Iona.

Iona smiles and rushes off towards the voice.

EXT. FOREST

Iona runs through the thicket. She's laughing and giggling with Marisol. Marisol's backwards feet run beside Iona's.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara enters but looks down at her phone as she ends the call.

SARA  
You ready to go out?

Sara looks up and sees Iona is gone.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Iona?

Sara calls back into the house.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Iona!