

ILLUMINATION

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Draft date: 12 October 2006

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EXT. PLAYGROUND

1

A group of CHILDREN runs, skips and jumps through the playground, with balls, skipping ropes and hoops. Each wears trainers which flash as their feet hit the tarmac.

TITLE: ILLUMINATION

2

INT. KITCHEN

2

NELL, aged five, tries to catch her MOTHER's attention as her mother moves to and fro around her in the kitchen. Her mother is busy multi-taking - washing up, cooking, reaching down jars from shelves, etc. Nell rotates with her mother's movement.

NELL

Pleeease...

MOTHER

Sweetheart, I've just bought you those ones...

NELL

But Mummee-, I *need* some. Everyone else...

MOTHER

Darling, those are perfectly good trainers. Now when you've grown out of them, we'll see. But for now, the answer - is no.

3

INT. HOME STAIRCASE

3

Nell sits on the second step from the bottom, looking dejected. She wears her non-flashing trainers. Her face slowly brightens, resolved.

NELL(V.O.)

How I make my trainers flash is...
I just close my eyes...
...and I think up lots of lights...

She stands up, the first traces of excitement on her face and closes her eyes in intense concentration.

NELL (V.O.)

...and they dance all around my shoes.

She holds her arms out wide.

NELL (V.O.)

And then I open my eyes... and there they are!

She opens her eyes and leaps from the stairs.

When her feet hit the floor, we see that her trainers are still non-flashing.

Nell leaps around wildly, calling out as she goes.

NELL

Look, Mummy! Look at my flashing trainers.

Nell runs down the hallway to her mother.

NELL

They're so bright, you need sunglasses.

MOTHER

(distracted)
Yes dear.

Her mother places her palm softly to the top of Nell's head, slides it down her cheek.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Lovely.

5

EXT. STREET

5

Along the street, her mother hurries along towing an excited Nell, who hops and jumps erratically. Nell talks to a succession of adult PASSERSBY.

NELL

Look at my flashing trainers. Look
at all the colours.

Momentarily puzzled, the passersby soon catch on, going along
with the child's imagination.

PASSERBY 1

Oo. Aren't they lovely.

Nell and her mother pass other adults, wheeling a bike,
carrying a painting, carrying a parcel. As they approach, the
adults come out with their responses.

PASSERBY 2

Isn't that nice?

PASSERBY 3

Wow! They're fab.

PASSERBY 4

Aren't you lucky!

Nell and her mother continue, straight from the pavement to
the school gate, where they are met by a TEACHER. A GIRL,
just a little older than Nell is hovering by the teacher's
elbow.

TEACHER

Oh Nell, I wish my trainers flashed
like that.

Nell, looking delighted, gives a little jump. As she lands,
the other girl steps forward.

GIRL

(telling it as it is)
They're not flashing.

Nell's mother turns slightly towards her daughter, moves
almost imperceptibly nearer. Nell looks shocked.

The scene goes to black.

6

INT. SITTING ROOM

6

Nell sits on the sitting room floor, her head hanging low. Her mother bends to hand her a wrapped box.

MOTHER

(appeasing; anticipating Nell's
delight)
They flash.

Nell's face lights up.

Nell eases up the lid. Wonderingly, she lifts out a pair of brand new trainers with lights just like everyone else's.

Excitedly, she puts them on. She jumps up and bounds wildly about a few times, looking down to see the trainers flash.

A couple of red lights on the heel flash on and off. She jumps once more, a little less convinced; it's a disappointing display. Then she sits.

Nell takes off the trainers. Says nothing.

Sits a moment, then picks up her old trainers and puts them back on. She's thinking hard, moving slowly. She stands and walks to the table.

Nell climbs onto a chair and up onto the table sofa, until she's standing tall. She steadies herself and stretches out her arms, closes her eyes for a moment in deep concentration, then leaps up and out.

As Nell's feet hit the ground, the trainers give a small flash. And another. She jumps on the spot and more lights flash.

As she leaps and jumps away down a stretch of hall, a rainbow of colour emerges from her heels.

END