

BLOSSOM PRINCESS WARS

Written by

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Threatened by her new neighbor, a suburban mother sets out to prove her love for her daughter through her favorite doll line, Blossom Princess.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

A space full of color, plastic, and loud music. A display of dolls has an overhanging sign: BLOSSOM PRINCESS. A suburban mother and daughter pair, CAROL ANDERSON, 30s, and LACEY ANDERSON, 8, enter the store. Lacey searches the display.

CAROL (V.O.)

I consider myself a perfect mother.  
I quit working to be a full-time  
mother. I cook with organic and non-  
GMO ingredients. I treat chores and  
grades like games with prizes. When  
my smart Lacey gets an A on her  
tests, we come to the toy store.

Lacey returns to Carol with a box.

LACEY

Mom, look! She's so pretty!

CAROL

Who's this one?

LACEY

Her name's Orchid. She's a princess  
from far away...

CAROL (V.O.)

She's obsessed with Blossom  
Princesses. She has more than all  
her friends combined.

LACEY

Can I take her home, Mom?

CAROL

Of course, sweetie!

Lacey skips ahead to the cashier line.

CAROL (V.O.)

If she asked for the limited-  
edition 6-foot Gemstone Castle set,  
my answer would have been the same.

EXT. SUBURBAN CUL-DE-SAC - DAY

A cluster of upscale suburban homes. Carol pulls her car into her driveway. The house next door has a moving truck outside.

LACEY  
Mom, look! Can we say "hi"?

CAROL  
Not yet. We need something first.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Spotless and minimalist. Lacey rushes to the marble countertop with a paper plate in her hands. Carol opens a cookie tin and piles the plate with magazine-worthy cookies.

CAROL (V.O.)  
I believe in making a good first impression. But that doesn't mean I can't show off while doing it.

Carol pulls a sheet of cling wrap over the plate.

CAROL  
Now we're ready.

EXT. SUBURBAN CUL-DE-SAC - DAY

Boxes, bags, and furniture sit on the driveway. Carol and Lacey cross into the neighbors' property. Lacey balances the plate in her hands. ELLEN SMITH, thirties, meets them.

ELLEN  
Hello! You must live next door!

CAROL  
Yes. I'm Carol.

ELLEN  
Carol. I'm Ellen.

Ellen crouches to LACEY's level.

ELLEN (CONT'D)  
And what's your name?

LACEY  
Lacey. Mom made these, and we want to give them to you.

ELLEN  
That's so sweet, thank you.

Carol studies Ellen.

CAROL (V.O.)  
Even in drab workout clothes, she  
looks like a movie star.

ELLEN  
Would you like to come in? I have a  
daughter who'd love to meet you.

LACEY  
Can we, Mom? Can we?

CAROL  
Why not?

INT. SMITH KITCHEN - DAY

A spacious yet unfinished kitchen strewn with cardboard  
boxes. Ellen sets the cookies on the counter.

ELLEN  
So sorry for the mess.

CAROL (V.O.)  
This kitchen is bigger than ours.  
Two people could comfortably cook  
here. Four, if you're determined.

Carol peeks into another room. A giant TV sits on the wall.

CAROL (V.O.)  
That television deserves to be in a  
theater. And it's in this home.

ELLEN  
(shouting)  
Raelynn, come here, sweetheart!

Carol spots an open mahogany box on the countertop,  
displaying chinaware.

CAROL (V.O.)  
They look hand-painted. Nothing  
mass-produced can imitate that.

RAELYNN, 9, awkward and anxious, enters the kitchen. She  
wears a Blossom Princess t-shirt.

ELLEN  
Raelynn, these are our neighbors  
Lacey and Mrs. Carol.

RAELYNN  
Hi.

Lacey points to Raelynn's shirt.

LACEY  
I like Blossom Princesses, too.

ELLEN  
Raelynn, why don't you show Lacey  
your playroom and unpack together,  
If it's okay with Mrs. Carol?

CAROL  
I don't see why not.

Raelynn points to three boxes stacked against the wall.

RAELYNN  
I only have three boxes left.  
They're too heavy for me by myself.

ELLEN  
We'll help you.

Ellen lifts the first box. The girls carry it together.

RAELYNN  
This way.

They trudge down a hallway. Ellen passes the second box to Carol, and carries the last one. Carol looks into hers.

CAROL (V.O.)  
It's the Blossom Princess 2005  
Christmas set. It was sold out  
across the country. It's fine, you  
have one stored in the attic.

INT. RAELYNN'S PLAYROOM - DAY

Wall-to-wall Blossom Princess merchandise. Any and every kind  
of play set relating to dolls.

LACEY  
Wow! Mom, look at all this!

Lacey and Raelynn set their box down. Ellen and Carol follow.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
You have Professor Petunia's  
Classroom?

Raelynn shows Lacey her toys. Carol's eyes scan the room.

CAROL (V.O.)  
Professor Petunia's Classroom. The  
Flower Bud Daycare. The Water Lily  
Splash Soirée.

Lacey trips over a long, flat box. She catches herself.

RAELYNN  
Sorry, Lacey.

Ellen lifts the box and props it against the wall. It's  
unopened and has a giant castle on its face.

CAROL (V.O.)  
No. She doesn't.

LACEY  
The Gemstone Castle! Wow!

CAROL  
Oh, Lacey, I'm sorry. I forgot we  
have to meet Dad out for dinner. We  
need to leave now.

ELLEN  
Thank you for welcoming us.

LACEY  
Raelynn, I'm having a Blossom  
Princess birthday party in two  
days. I want you to come!

RAELYNN  
Really?

CAROL  
We'll see ourselves out.

Carol takes Lacey by the hand. They leave.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Busy, bustling, and claustrophobic. Carol, Lacey, and ROBERT  
ANDERSON, 30s, wearing business casual, sit in a secluded  
booth. Lacey draws with crayons on her kid's menu.

ROBERT

So, how was your day?

LACEY

Good. We have new neighbors.  
There's a girl named Raelynn. She's  
nice, and she has a whole room for  
her Blossom Princesses.

ROBERT

A whole room? That's a lot.

Carol, bothered, stands up.

CAROL

I need to use the restroom.

She rushes off.

INT. RESTAURANT BATHROOM - EVENING

Carol washes her hands in a grimy sink. She stares at her  
reflection.

CAROL (V.O.)

Who does she think she is, waltzing  
next door and outdoing me? Fine,  
Mrs. Ellen Smith. You want war?  
I'll make Lacey's birthday party  
one you'll never forget.

PARTY PLANNING MONTAGE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Carol deep-cleans her already spotless house. She sets up  
streamers and balloons. She pastes large printouts of Blossom  
Princesses on the walls.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

She stuffs goodie bags to the brim with candies and toys. She  
follows a complicated DIY floral centerpiece tutorial while  
talking on the phone.

CAROL

How much to add another layer to  
the cake? I don't care about the  
cost. It's not possible? Can you  
top it with fondant or something?

END MONTAGE

INT. CAROL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carol sits on her bed, staring at a laptop. She refreshes the page for an online auction. Robert rolls over, half-asleep.

ROBERT  
It's three AM, what are you doing?

CAROL  
There's an auction for the first Blossom Princess doll, Daisy. You can't buy her in stores anymore.

Robert peers at the screen.

ROBERT  
Well, don't spend Lacey's entire college fund on it.

He goes back to sleep. The screen says Carol has won.

CAROL (V.O.)  
Yes! If I go out early enough, I'll be able to pick it up and be back in time for the party.

EXT. DOLL SELLER'S STUDIO - MORNING

Carol knocks on the door. After a few seconds, the DOLL SELLER, late 20s, dodgy and dubious, cracks the door open.

DOLL SELLER  
Who are you?

CAROL  
Carol. I'm here for the Daisy doll.

DOLL SELLER  
Oh, right. Come in.

INT. DOLL-SELLER'S STUDIO - MORNING

An absolute pigsty of paint, tools, plastic, and trash.

DOLL SELLER  
Just wait here.

The Doll Seller disappears into another room. Carol examines her surroundings. Her face contorts in disgust.



CAROL (V.O.)  
Paint and cheap plastic. Not even  
the dollar store smells like this.

The Doll Seller makes rummaging noises. Carol peers in. She glimpses dolls in varying stages of completion.

CAROL (V.O.)  
Not freaky at all.

The Doll Seller returns with the Blossom Princess in her box.

DOLL SELLER  
Here she is, Daisy, the first-ever  
Blossom Princess.

Carol reaches her hand out. The Doll Seller backs away.

DOLL SELLER (CONT'D)  
No, put the cash on the table, then  
I'll hand over the goods.

Carol drops cash on the cluttered coffee table. She and the Doll Seller have a tense stare-down.

EXT. DOLL SELLER'S STUDIO - MORNING

The Doll Seller pushes Carol out and slams the door.

CAROL (V.O.)  
That was weird, but Daisy's now  
mine. Totally worth it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The decorated living room now has wrapping paper scattered across the floor. Little girls sit in a circle. Lacey and Raelynn sit next to each other. Carol, Robert, and Ellen sit on the couch behind them. Robert passes Lacey a gift bag.

ROBERT  
And here's the last one, from Mom.

LACEY  
Thank you, Mom!

Lacey rummages through the bag and pulls out the box.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Wow, it's Daisy!

RAELYNN  
No way! That's so cool!

LACEY  
Can I open the box, Mom? Please?

CAROL  
Robert, get the scissors from the cabinet drawer, would you?

ROBERT  
Sure.

Robert scoops Lacey in his arms. The girls follow them.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Onward, to the kitchen!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Robert wrestles with the packaging. The girls watch.

ROBERT  
She is free!

Robert passes it to Lacey. The girls return to the living room. Lacey stops near what's left of her birthday cake.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
No. You've had two pieces already.

Lacey scoops frosting on her finger and licks it off. Robert chases Lacey, giggling, back into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lacey throws herself at the wall.

LACEY  
Wall's base!

Robert makes a sound of mock frustration. The girls laugh. Robert sits back down next to Carol.

ROBERT  
And I thought Barbies were hard.

ELLEN  
Wow, Carol, you got your hands on Daisy. She's long retired. Just how did you do it?

CAROL  
Oh, you know, if you know where to  
look, you're bound to find it.

Ellen nods.

CAROL (V.O.)  
Take that, Ellen. I win.

ELLEN  
Oh my God, what's on your hands?

Robert looks at his hands, covered in white splotches.

ROBERT  
I have no idea.

He wipes his hands on a stray napkin. The girls play with  
Lacey's dolls. Lacey scratches her hand and breathes heavily.

RAELYNN  
Lacey? Are you okay?

They look at Lacey's hands, covered in hives. Lacey's breaths  
become more labored. She cries.

RAELYNN (CONT'D)  
Mrs. Carol! Mr. Robert!

Carol drops in front of Lacey. The girls back away.

CAROL  
Lacey, what's wrong? Shit, Robert,  
start the car!

Carol picks up the coughing, crying Lacey. She and Robert  
dash for the door. Lacey still clutches the doll.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Lacey lies in a hospital bed. Outside her room, Carol sits  
hunched over in her chair. Robert puts his arm around her. A  
DOCTOR, forties, approaches them.

DOCTOR  
I have good and bad news. Good news  
is, she's going to be fine. It was  
an allergic reaction, and we want  
to monitor her through the night,  
but otherwise, she's healthy.

CAROL  
And the bad news?

The Doctor holds the doll, sealed in a plastic bag.

DOCTOR

I found the culprit. The paint is sulfate-based, and your girl tested positive for sulfate sensitivity. It's not usually a problem, but this little lady didn't have a sealant on her.

The Doctor opens the bag and, with a gloved hand, demonstrates the bad paint job.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

So, it got on Lacey's hands and in her mouth, causing a reaction. I can't tell you what to do with it, but I would suggest locking it away or throwing it out.

The Doctor passes them the bag and leaves.

ROBERT

Is that why they retired it?

Carol takes her phone from her purse and pulls up professional photos of the Daisy doll. They peer closely.

CAROL

Wait, you see the eyes?

ROBERT

Yeah, and the head's off.

ELLEN (O.S.)

Carol!

Ellen and Raelynn approach. Raelynn hugs dolls to her chest.

CAROL

Ellen?

ELLEN

Don't worry about the other kids. I found your phonebook and called their parents.

RAELYNN

Is Lacey okay?

Raelynn and Carol look into Lacey's room.

CAROL

She is now. She'd love to see you.

Raelynn, with her dolls, trudges to Lacey.

ELLEN

Carol, you look pale. Sit down.

Ellen and Robert help her into her chair.

ROBERT

I'll get you some water, okay?

He leaves Carol and Ellen alone.

ELLEN

Want to talk about it?

Carol bursts into tears.

CAROL

I just wanted to make her happy,  
and have her know how much I love  
her. And I get her a bootleg and  
put her in the hospital.

ELLEN

Carol, I want you to listen to me.  
You're not the first to buy a  
bootleg toy. And you won't be the  
last. Trust me, I know. I lost a  
lot of money. They know how  
desperate we are to make our kids  
happy. Sometimes I wonder if we can  
love someone too much.

They watch Lacey and Raelynn chat, giggle, and play with  
Raelynn's dolls.

EXT. SUBURBAN CUL-DE-SAC - EVENING

Carol, Robert, Lacey, Ellen, and Raelynn set up a table and  
dinner spread in between their homes. They sit down together.

CAROL

I told myself I would wait, but...

She passes Lacey a new present. Lacey's eyes light up as  
she tears away the wrapping paper. Inside, a book.

LACEY

*Deeper in the Meadow: the Journey  
of the Blossom Princesses from  
Paper to Shelves.* Ooh, cool!

Carol and Ellen watch the girls flip through the book.

CAROL (V.O.)

I don't know what makes a perfect mother. What I do know is that it's not a competition. It's up to us to remember why we do what we do.

LACEY

Thank you so much, Mom. I love you!

Lacey kisses her Mom on the cheek.

CAROL

I love you too, Lacey.

FADE OUT.