

**1A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING****1A**

EDEN eats dinner at the dinner table with MOM, DAD, and ELI

MOM

So, how did your day go, sweetie?

EDEN

It was fine, I guess.

Eden picks at her food.

INTERCUT

**1B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING****1B**

ARDENIA stands at the control panel.

INTERCUT

**1A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING****1A**

MOM

Alright, how about you, Eli?

ELI

Chip forgot the bubblegum AGAIN!  
I'm starting to think he doesn't  
even have any bubble gum.

DAD

He probably doesn't, if my name was  
Chip I'd lie to make friends too.

MOM

Would you stop that?

INTERCUT

**1B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING****1B**

ARDENIA

He does have a point.

INTERCUT

**1A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING****1A**

Eli looks down.

MOM  
(in the background)  
We have to support all his friends,  
what if this kid comes to the  
house?

Eli looks at WILMA. The family dog.

DAD  
(in the background)  
Then I'll tell his parents to give  
him a real name. You gotta admit  
it's stupid.

MOM  
(in the background)  
That doesn't matter.

DAD  
(in the background)  
Doesn't it?

Eli starts to give Wilma some food off his plate.

MOM  
Eli!

Eli stops.

MOM  
We told you not to give her food at  
the table!

ELI  
But she's sitting! She's being  
good!

MOM  
She has her own food she can eat...

HIGH ANGLE OF EMPTY DOG FOOD BOWL

MOM  
(cont.)  
Eden? Did you feed Wilma?

EDEN  
No... not yet.

MOM  
Can you please feed her? Before  
your brother gives her all his  
vegetables?

ELI  
But she likes vegetables!

MOM  
Your dog, descended from wolves,  
likes peas?

ELI  
Yup!

MOM  
(to Eden)  
Can you please just feed her?

INTERCUT

**1B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING**

**1B**

INNER EDEN walks up to the control panel.

INNER EDEN  
Hey, why haven't we fed Wilma? We  
do it every night.

ARDENIA  
Exactly. We do it every night. She  
isn't going to notice the  
difference of a few minutes. We had  
such a long day, can't we eat  
dinner in peace?

INTERCUT

**1A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING**

**1A**

EDEN  
Can I do it after dinner?

MOM  
You're supposed to do it before  
dinner.

EDEN  
Yeah but we've already started.  
Please?

MOM  
Okay, but as soon as you're done,  
you're feeding her.

EDEN  
Okay...

INTERCUT

**1B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING**

**1B**

ARDENIA

See? Smooth sailing...

Ardenia puts her feet on the control panel.

CUT TO:

**2A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING**

**2A**

Eden eats her dinner. Her parents start to get up and put dishes in the sink.

MOM

Are you ready to feed Wilma now?

Eden picks at her food.

EDEN

I'm still eating...

MOM

Eden, you have like 5 peas on your plate.

ELI

Which Wilma would love!

MOM

(annoyed)

Eli...

Eli giggles and runs upstairs.

MOM

(cont.)

Please?

INTERCUT

**2B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING**

**2B**

INNER EDEN

C'mon it's like 30 seconds let's just do it.

ARDENIA

No! We aren't ready!

INNER EDEN  
What? What would make us "ready"?  
Let's just get up and do it.

ARDENIA  
No. We need to wait.

INTERCUT

2A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

2A

EDEN  
I need to finish my peas.  
Eden continues to pick at her plate.

MOM  
(sighs)  
Okay.  
Time passes.

CROSSFADE

3A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

3A

MOM  
Okay. I've done the dishes. You've  
had a chance to finish dinner. Now,  
I really need you to feed the dog.

INTERCUT

3B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING

3B

The main screen shows Eden looking down at Wilma.

INNER EDEN  
Ardenia, she's hungry.

ARDENIA  
And you think I don't know that?  
You think I don't care about her?

Ardenia pauses

ARDENIA  
(cont.)  
Mom will take care of it.

INTERCUT

3A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

3A

EDEN  
Can't you do it?

MOM  
No. Eden, you have one job, I need  
you to do your job. Just like I do  
mine, and your father does his.  
Even Eli helps water the garden on  
Saturdays. We all have a role to  
play to make this work.

INTERCUT

3B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING

3B

ARDENIA  
Great, now she thinks we're lazy.  
We're not lazy! We've got a lot  
going on!

INTERCUT

3A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

3A

Eden is quiet.

MOM  
Eden. Now.

INTERCUT

3B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING

3B

INNER EDEN  
If you won't do it, can I?

ARDENIA  
No, this is too much, we should  
just leave.

INTERCUT

3A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

3A

EDEN  
I'm gonna go to my room...

MOM

After you feed her. Her food is right there. Do it before you go upstairs.

Eden pauses at the stairs. She looks at the dog food.

**3B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING**

**3B**

ARDENIA  
No, we can't.

**3A INT. KITCHEN - EVENING**

**3A**

Eden runs up the stairs.

MOM  
(yelling)  
Eden! Come feed the dog or you're grounded!

Eden is upstairs.

EDEN  
(muffled yelling)  
Fine!

A door slams.

Mom frowns. She rubs her temples.

MOM  
(whispers)  
What, what am I supposed to do?

She puts dog food in Wilma's bowl.

Wilma goes to eat the food.

CUT TO:

**4A INT. BEDROOM - EVENING**

**4A**

Eden cries in her bed.

INTERCUT

**4B INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING**

**4B**

INNER EDEN  
What was all that?

ARDENIA

Ugh, she hates us. She just doesn't get it. And she thinks we're a failure. She thinks we're a failure and she doesn't love us anymore because of it. We have to do everything we can to avoid her.

INNER EDEN

Ardenia, I don't understand. Why couldn't we just feed her?

ARDENIA

Because, at first it's the dog food, just feeding the dog, such a little thing, right? Wrong. Because once we have that down, we'll be ready for "more responsibility". That means taking out the trash, *vacuuming* on a bi-weekly basis- oh my god, she's gonna make us do our own laundry. No, this is a slippery slope and I won't fall for it.

INNER EDEN

If you would just let me-

Inner Eden reaches for the console. Ardenia catches Inner Eden's arm.

ARDENIA

I'm keeping us safe.

INTERCUT

**4A INT. BEDROOM - EVENING**

**4A**

Eden continues to cry in her bed.

ARDENIA

(voiceover)

You don't see it now, but I am...

FADE TO BLACK.