

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.