

BROKEN FOR YOU

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Based on the novel Broken For You by Stephanie Kallos

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BROKEN FOR YOU

IN BLACK

We hear the hustle and bustle of an airport.

FADE IN:

EXT. SEATTLE STREET - DAY

CU on a man's HAND holding a POSTCARD of the Seattle skyline. He flips it and writes: Wanda Schultz, and a Chicago address. His HAND hesitates, then drops the card in a mailbox. CU on his FEET walking away from the mailbox.

INT. AIRPORT COFFEE SHOP - DAY (2010)

The sounds of the airport increase. A MAN and WOMAN, both in their 20's, gaze at each other across a table, holding hands.

MARGARET (V.O.)
This is a love story.

The man slips a sparkling diamond ring on the woman's finger.

MARGARET (V.O.)
But not theirs.

The couple look at the camera, surprised. Passing in front of them we see petite WANDA SCHULTZ, early 30's, all big eyes and short dark hair. She carries a child's battered suitcase and her journal is tucked under her arm.

EXT. LIGHT RAIL STATION

Wanda gets on the train.

MARGARET (V.O.)
Wanda Schultz believed that love
existed...

INT. LIGHT RAIL TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

Wanda sits.

MARGARET (V.O.)
... though maybe not for her.

Clearly uneasy, she opens her journal which is filled with scribbles, drawings, and positive affirmation. The postcard of Seattle that we saw earlier is the bookmark for her journal.

She sketches two HANDS, holding. The hands animate slightly and transform into the hands of:

EXT. AUNT MAUREEN'S HOUSE - DAY (1980)

Wanda's DAD, 38. He holds six-year-old LITTLE WANDA's hand. Her other hand holds a small suitcase. He let's go, brushes away tears and knocks on the door. His sister MAUREEN, 40, opens it. The steely eyeballs of 7 SMALL BOYS peer at her from behind Maureen's legs. Wanda reaches for her dad's hand but he's gone. Perched on her suitcase is a black and white PHOTO of Little Wanda watching her dark-haired MOM bowl.

MARGARET (V.O.)

Since the day her dad left her with
Aunt Maureen to look for his
runaway wife...

MAUREEN'S HOUSE MONTAGE

At the kitchen table, Little Wanda glues together a broken vase.

LATER

Maureen enters the kitchen in a bathrobe to find Little Wanda asleep, clutching a big bottle of Elmer's glue, surrounded by items she's repaired: a vase glued back together, a toaster with its lever band-aided in place, a drawer handle glued on, a torn umbrella fixed with masking tape.

MARGARET

...there was only one thing Wanda
knew for sure...

ANOTHER DAY

One of the Boys watches as Wanda sews an arm on his teddy bear. She gives the fixed Teddy bear back to the boy,

MARGARET (V.O.)

... she was useful...

The boy sticks his tongue out at her and runs off with the bear.

MARGARET

... if not lovable.

FLASH TO WHITE

CREDITS ROLL

INT. LIGHT RAIL TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

Wanda stops sketching. She picks up the postcard, studies it, then compares it with the city rolling by outside her window.

Wanda gets off the train, walks downtown passes by MACRINA BAKERY.

END CREDITS

INT. MACRINA BAKERY- DAY

MARGARET, 70's, well put together but dressed in somber clothing, sits at a table filled with dessert, but she doesn't eat. The WAITRESS, 20's, a rocker with a pierced nose, sets the last dessert on the table.

WANDA (V.O.)

Margaret Hughes had reached a crossroads. The one thing she knew for sure:

MARGARET

Something has to change.

WAITRESS

Did I forget something?

MARGARET

Oh, no. It's just... may I ask you something, dear?

WAITRESS

Sure.

MARGARET

If you didn't have long to live... do you think... oh dear. What I mean is... what would you do?

WAITRESS

Hmm. That's a good one. I guess I'd do everything I was afraid of.

MARGARET

Really. Oh my. Yes. I see. Ah, do you happen to have a piece of paper and a pen I might borrow?

The Waitress hands her a blank receipt and a pen. Margaret writes:

INSERT - Room for Rent.

EXT. SEATTLE TIMES NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY

Margaret slides the 'room for rent' notice across the desk.

INT. SEATTLE YMCA LOBBY - DAY

The lobby lounge is decrepit, so it's no surprise that no one lounges there. A BALDING MAN, down-on-his-luck, walks past Wanda who heads to the desk where JUANITA, 40's, Latina reads the Seattle Times.

WANDA

'Scuse me.

JUANITA

Oh, Hi honey. Is today moving day?

WANDA

No. I'd like to pay for another week.

JUANITA

Really?

WANDA

Is that a problem?

JUANITA

No. It's just, you don't mind my sayin' so, the Y has its purpose an' all, but people don't usually wanna stay here. Don't you wanna find something permanent?

WANDA

Nothing's permanent. At least this place is honest.

JUANITA

I've heard it called a lotta things. But honest?

WANDA

Yeah. I mean, people come and go. You don't expect anyone to stay. Or care.

She hands her money to Juanita, who looks at Wanda with pity.

EXT. DIFFERENT SEATTLE STREETS - DAY

Wanda walks around the city with a map, looking in shop windows and at pedestrians, clearly on the hunt.

MJ, 58, a brooding man in black, looks in bowling alley after bowling alley, also searching for someone.

INT. YMCA LOBBY - A WEEK LATER

Wanda walks up and waits to see if Juanita will stop reading the paper. She doesn't.

WANDA

Hi.

JUANITA

Oh. Mornin' honey. Today moving day?

WANDA

Do we have to do this every time?

Wanda pushes money across the desk. Juanita pushes the classified section of the paper to Wanda. An ad is circled in red.

WANDA (CONT'D)

What's this?

JUANITA

A good deal.

INSERT - the headline reads: Room for Rent.

Wanda pushes the paper back to Juanita. As she walks away, she sees a reunion in progress: The Balding Man and his DAUGHTER joyfully run towards each other.

WANDA'S POV

As the Daughter runs, she becomes Little Wanda, who jumps into her Dad's arms.

END POV

Wanda turns away from them, hurries back to Juanita.

WANDA

Um, could I -

Juanita hands her the paper and beams. Wanda cringes.

WANDA (CONT'D)

Don't make me hate you.