

Julyfire

35 EXT. NEW YORK/BRONX. A DIRTY SIDE
STREET. - NIGHT

FADE IN:

Shirkan finds himself in a ghetto of New York.
He looks down a side street full of
garbage...the noise from the street volumes up
the space...

SHIRKAN

(sniffles)

What a stink!!! Oh man, does not
anyone clean here??

Traffic noise and loud honking resounds from
the main street... Shirkan discovers an open
window on the second floor of a house. Light
shines out of the window.

SHEILA, a little girl with blond hair sits on
the windowsill.

Shirkan tabs under the window.

The girl sings "Holiday, celebrate ... it
would be so nice. Time for a good time, forget
about the bad time. "(Song: Holiday,
Madonna)...Shirkan looks up...

SHIRKAN

When was your last vacation, little
girl?

SHEILA

I have never been on vacation.
Hello?? Who's there??

SHIRKAN

(stands on the stairs in front
of Sheila,
cat body)

But then it's time for a vacation,
little girl! Where would you most
like to go on vacation? Oh, my name
is Shirkan.

SHEILA

(dreamy)

I want to go where many animals are!
I love horses and dogs. I saw them
at school. In a book. Ohhh ...
you're truly a beautiful, cat!

SHIRKAN

(voice-over)

She understands my language. Very
nice...

(loud)

What is your name, little angel?

SHEILA

(joyful)

Sheila. Do you like to play with me?
In my room. I can not go outside.

SHIRKAN

Sure! What do you prefer to play?

SHEILA

Guessing puzzles. Come in....let us
play!

INT. SHEILAS ROOM. - NIGHT

Sheila goes into the room. She sits down on
the bed.

In the small room is an old chair and a worn table.

On the table are school documents. A satchel is on the floor. On the bed is a teddy bear and a doll.

Shirkan takes a seat in front of her...

SHEILA

So ...I see something you do not see. It is blue and rustling. What's this?

SHIRKAN

Mmmmm that's really hard

....

(mulling)

SHEILA

Oh, you'r soooo silly! The Ocean!

SHIRKAN

(looks around)

Where is an ocean here, please?

Sheila jumps up... She takes an open book from the table, shows it Shirkan. On the picture a beach with palm trees is shown....

SHEILA

Well, here!

SHIRKAN

(laughs out loudly)

You definitely have fantasy, little angel!

How do you know that the sea is rushing?

I can't hear any noise!

SHEILA

I know that from TV. I can often see and hear the sea on TV. Sometimes I'm allowed to watch TV in the living room. When I look at the picture in this book I hear the noise, as it roars on the television.

SHIRKAN

Say, when do you meet your friends to play?

SHEILA

I have no friends. I have to stay home.

I just go to school, and I do not like them at all. They all time want me to say something. And I should learn. Nobody understands me.

Look, these are my friends Berny & Madeleine.

(She points to the doll and the teddy bear)

THEY understand me!

Shirkan puts her forepaws on Sheila's legs...
He looks deep into her eyes.

SHIRKAN

(purring)

What do you think about having a real friend now?

SHEILA

(shouts out loud)

That would be great!!!

Suddenly the door is torn open... A tall man, degenerate, in dirty clothes stands in the door... Shirkan gets invisible.

SHEILAS FATHER

What is this noise? Shut up your mouth ...

I want my peace... are you listening???

SHEILA

But...

SHEILAS FATHER

Shut up!!! I said that a thousand times already!

Well wait, you get what you deserve
....

The man starts getting on Sheila... He raises his hand. With the other he opens his pants... In that moment Shirkan jumps on his shoulder, clings on his back.

SHIRKAN

(hisses in his ear, pushes him out the door)

What you are trying to do now... you better refrain from that, mister!

SHEILAS FATHER

Hell, daaamn hell! Ahhhhh ... what the fuck is that ????

Shirkan puts the father out of the door...than returns to the room. ...He closes the door.
(human body)

Sheila sits terrified on the bed with wide eyes, looks at Shirkan. Than she falls into his arms with relief.

SHEILA

Oh Shirkan! Father is always so angry in the evening....
Later he will go away, than I can go to the living room.

(crying, lingers in his arm)

SHIRKAN

(voice-over, desperate)
My God, Amaunet, why do you allow THIS HAPPENS???

AMAUNET

(voice-over)
It is up to you to take up the fight against the evil forces in this family, Shirkan!

THE DARK SIDE

(voice-over)
Hahahahah! This family can not be saved! The father infested with AIDS and drugs. Wait until you see the mother and the son! Then you believe me

Suddenly the door opens. Sheila's mother steps in, her hair disheveled, her face blank and empty, drunken.
Shirkan gets invisible.

SHEILAS MOTHER

Your Daddy is now completely on hashish...will have seen a talking cat with you. You can come over, eat. The bastard is gone.

SHEILA

(annoyed)

There is no cat with me!

SHEILAS MOTHER

(indifferent)

Anyway, another dung cattle eats all our food like the mutt of your brother, we don't need here!

FATHER (CONT'D)

(loud, aggressive)

Have you heard???

(animated: Ares becomes visible in her, turns around and leaves)

SHIRKAN

(voice-over)

What a horrible human woman ... a human ??? ... poor Sheila ... !!!

(clenching his fist)

SHEILA

(sad)

Do you know Shirkan, my parents don't get it that easy.

My dad said he has this AIDS virus and my brother too. Only mom and I don't.

That's why dad can't work anymore.

They get every day "fog up" so they do not notice, Mama says. Papa keeps

screaming when he is no longer
"dizzy" and beats mom and me.
That's why I'm only allowed out of
the room when I go to school or when
Daddy gets his food.

SHIRKAN

Like you can not go out to
play?

SHEILA

Not really.
Sometimes I sneak away to play with
the garbage can cats. I love all
cats! But never has one

SHEILA (CONT'D)

come to my room with me. It's sooooo
great that you dare to come here!
(hugs SHIRKAN, smiling)

SHEILAS MOTHER

(roaring from the living room)
Sheila! Come over! Go on ... eat.
Before the bastard is back!

Sheila gets up.

SHEILA

See you later!

Shirkan turns invisible ...follows her.

BLACK SCREEN.