

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

WHO'S MINDY?

Written by

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Draft 2

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EXT. ROAD. MORNING.

A yellow school bus sits at a bus stop, its loud engine disturbing the peace of an idyllic country road. Opposite the bus stop is a small detached house: red brick walls and a big white door. It is a sunny day, the sky is blue and butterflies appear every now and again.

The BUS DRIVER is staring at her watch. In the bus are countless SCHOOL CHILDREN (10-11 years old) - they all stare out at the house as if waiting..

CLOSE ON: the DRIVER'S wristwatch, it is 9.14am. Everything is motionless. The DRIVER waits for the time to change, the children wait for someone to leave the house.

Suddenly the house door swings open and MINDY, 11, runs out. She is dressed in a school uniform and is still putting on her right shoe as she runs to the bus. The children cheer, just as..

The DRIVER's watch strikes 9.15 and she immediately speeds off, MINDY is half way across the road. She stops and watches it disappear in to the distance.

MINDY walks to the pavement and finishes putting on her right shoe. She kneels down to tie her lace.

MINDY
(rushing)
Bunny ears, bunny ears, playing by a
tree..
(stares at the lace)
A tree? How do I do a tree?

Suddenly a bird SQUAWKS behind her, she looks in its direction over her shoulder. It is sat on a church clock tower a little distance down the street: the clock reads 9.16. MINDY panics and jumps to her feet, her lace still untied. She starts running.

MINDY'S DAD opens the door of the house, but MINDY is already out of earshot. He holds up a cassette tape.

MINDY'S DAD
Mindy! You forgot your show and tell!

CUT TO:

EXT. FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD. MORNING.

MINDY is running down the pavement past houses similar to her own. A brown pick up truck drives past her - its radio is loud:

RADIO PRESENTER
Good morning grafters, the time is
9.17am and you are listening to DON'T
BE LATE FM.

MINDY runs even quicker. A yellow butterfly appears aside MINDY and flies next to her. MINDY smiles at it - and seems to have an idea. Suddenly MINDY jumps in to the air and..

MINDY transforms in to a red butterfly. She flies off in to the sky.

An OLD LADY, stood on her driveway in a dressing gown, sees MINDY transform and is amazed. Her eyes and mouth both open wide and her hair, which had been curled up in hair rollers, flops down.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY. MORNING.

MINDY, the shape-shifter, flies high in the sky in the form of a red butterfly. The butterfly flaps its wings but still moves quite slowly..

The butterfly transforms in to a paper aeroplane. On the side of the plane is MINDY's name and a flower drawn in pencil. It glides along much faster, and does a loop-the-loop before nosediving down a little bit.

On the ground way below the paper plane is the yellow school bus.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL BUS. MORNING.

The bus-full of SCHOOL CHILDREN all cram against one window, looking up at the sky. They shout excitably.

SCHOOL CHILDREN
That's her! Come on Mindy you can
make it!

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY. MORNING.

The aeroplane glides along but is hit by a gust of wind which crinkles it up a bit..

The aeroplane transforms in to an huge eagle. It flaps its wings a few times and speeds up. Below, the school bus has stopped and the children are filing out.

After a moment the eagle transforms in to a person-shaped-cloud. The cloud runs along, jumping on other clouds until it gets directly above the school. It puts its hands above its head and dives down, as though in to a swimming pool.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. MORNING.

MRS HELENSON, the school teacher, stands at the school entrance as SCHOOL CHILDREN enter. MRS HELENSON both speaks her dialogue and signs it using British Sign Language.

MRS HELENSON
Good morning Clara, good morning
Nathaniel, good morning Sam.

The last child enters the school. The CHILDREN disappear down the corridor.

CHILDREN
(in the distance)
Is she here? Did she make it?

MRS HELENSON takes one last look at the playground before turning to go inside. As she turns around a huge person-shaped-shadow is cast across the playground, but suddenly it disappears..

A single orange leaf slowly floats down out of the sky, right on to the step of the school entrance. It gets about 2 feet above the ground when..

The leaf transforms in to MINDY. She looks exactly the same as she did earlier other than a big bird feather in her hair. She enters the school.

As the doors close behind her, the sunlight is tunneled through and it highlights her feet: her right shoelace is still undone. The doors close and MINDY is only visible through the small door windows. Suddenly MINDY trips up and disappears out of sight.

TITLE: WHO'S MINDY?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR. MORNING.

MRS HELENSON walks down the middle of the narrow school corridor as children split off in to different rooms. MINDY follows about thirty feet behind her. MRS HELENSON turns in to a classroom and MINDY picks up the pace to get there before the door closes - but she is too late. The door closes right in her face.

MINDY steps on her tip-toes and looks through the small window: inside, the class are gathering on the floor in front of an whiteboard. MRS HELENSON is pulling up a chair to sit in front of the class.

MINDY comes off her tip-toes and turns around, her back to the door. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. She looks different - she looks nervous. All of a sudden she shrinks OUT OF FRAME.

MOVE DOWN to the ground to reveal a tiny spider crawling through a crack beneath the door. It walks towards the children.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY.

The class mutter between themselves until MRS HELENSON sits on the chair, on which they all stop and stare at her.

When MRS HELENSON and the SCHOOL CHILDREN speak, they also sign what they are saying in British Sign Language.

MRS HELENSON
Good morning everybody.

WHOLE CLASS
(slowly)
Good morning Mrs Helenson.

As the class finish speaking MINDY suddenly appears at the back. Nobody notices other than MRS HELENSON, who smiles at her. MINDY smiles back nervously - she seems like a different girl now, clearly very reserved.

MRS HELENSON

I am sure everybody knows that it is Friday, no body ever forgets Friday, because we know what comes after it!

The class quietly celebrate the fact that tomorrow is the weekend.

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)

And we know what Friday means.

Written on the whiteboard behind MRS HELENSON, in big block letters, is: FRIDAY SHOW AND TELL.

MINDY notices the board and looks distraught - she forgot to bring anything. She pats down her pockets to check whether there is anything she could show but they are empty.

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)

Who would like to go first?

Everyone's hand, other than MINDY's, again shoots up.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY.

MONTAGE

one by one, children stand at the front of the class presenting their show and tell items. The items rest on a glass podium next to them (items listed in parenthesis). They all still sign everything they say using BSL.

NATHANIEL

*(a printed photo of
frogspawn)*

I wanted to bring the frogspawn in but I am scared of frogs so didn't want to go close to it, so I printed off a photo of some instead.

JAYDEN

*(a book with a big
thought bubble on
the front)*

My Dad gave me this so that I can write things down when I am feeling worried about them. It is called my Worry Book.

CLARA

(a painting of a red
fish)

It is a big blue whale that I saw on the TV, they are the biggest animals in the world. But I didn't have any blue paint.

DYLAN

(a piggy bank, DYLAN
is deaf, so only
signs)

I have got three pounds thirty so far, and I am going to go to the sweet shop when I have got five pounds.

SAM

(a half eaten apple)

This apple looked like it had a smiley face on it, but I accidentally bit it off.

ELLIE

(a ukulele)

This part is called the bridge, and this part is called the sound hole, and this part is called the neck. And one day I am going to learn how to play it.

END OF MONTAGE

MRS HELENSON stands at the front.

MRS HELENSON

Who have we got left to go?

The class all look back at MINDY - she blushes.

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)

Ah, Mindy, you were hiding there at the back. Your turn.

MINDY glances around the room but doesn't make eye contact with anyone. Her face gets redder and the class stare at her in obvious anticipation.

MINDY, clearly overwhelmed, transforms in to a red chair.
MRS HELENSON puts her hands on her hips.

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)
Mindy. Come on. Plus, that is the
wrong colour.

The rest of the chairs in the room are blue. The chair
transforms in to a green bowling ball and starts to roll to
the front of the class - the CHILDREN watch in awe.

The bowling ball gets to the bottom of the glass podium and
transforms in to a frog, leaping up on to the podium.
NATHANIEL, sat in the middle of the class, shrieks. The frog
sits on the top of the podium, its big yellow eyes look down
at the floor.

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)
Mindy, it is show and tell.

A BEAT. The CHILDREN stare at the frog, the frog's face goes
red. Suddenly it leaps off the podium and transforms in to a
butterfly. It flies out of the open window.

MRS HELENSON runs to the window and watches as the butterfly
flies in to the window opposite - the toilet window.

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)
I will be two minutes, everybody.
Have a look at each other's things.

The CHILDREN get animate, sharing their objects, as MRS
HELENSON leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. TOILET CUBICLE. MORNING.

MINDY sits in a small blue cubicle, she holds her head in
her hands; dejected.

A door is PUSHED OPEN and FOOTSTEPS approach the cubicle.
MINDY panics and transforms in to a red spray painting on
the cubicle wall - the painting is of a stick figure, its
dotted eyes look towards the cubicle door. A gentle KNOCK.

MRS HELENSON
Mindy, are you in there?

The stick figure looks down at the floor and transforms back
in to MINDY. She sits down.

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)
Mindy, it's okay if you're nervous to
speak in front of people.
(MORE)

MRS HELENSON (cont'd)
But you shouldn't run away. We all
want to hear about what you have to
show and tell.

MINDY
(timidly)
I.. forgot to bring something.

MRS HELENSON
Not to worry. You can tell us about
something instead.
(pause)
I know it can be scary talking in
front of the class, I feel the same
way too when I have to speak in
assembly. But I don't let being
scared stop me, because I know that I
will feel so proud of myself once I
finish.

MINDY
I don't know what to talk about. I
can't think of anything that I have.

MRS HELENSON
I know one thing that you have, that
nobody else has. We would love to
hear you talk about that. You have
shown it a lot but we have never
heard you talk about it.

MINDY
It isn't that interesting.

MRS HELENSON
Well, you come and tell us about it,
and we will see.

MINDY unlocks the door. MRS HELENSON pushes it open softly -
MINDY has transformed in to a colourful parrot and is sat on
the back of the toilet.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY.

The SCHOOL CHILDREN stand around the room sharing their show
and tell objects. MRS HELENSON enters the room and they all
rush to their place on the floor.

The colourful parrot sits on MRS HELENSON's shoulder. She walks to the front of the room and the parrot flutters on to the glass podium. MRS HELENSON takes a step back.

The parrot looks around the room, then at MRS HELENSON - she nods and smiles. The parrot squawks quietly. (All dialogue is again accompanied by British Sign Language).

MRS HELENSON

Mindy, we don't speak parrot.

A mumble of laughter from the class. The parrot flies off the podium and hovers. Its eyes look around the room - the school children stare back at it; they are amazed.

The parrot transforms in to MINDY and she stands with her head bowed down. She looks up, scanning her eyes across the CHILDREN; their amazement seems to give her confidence.

MINDY

Sometimes people are scared when I shape shift, because they have never seen it before. Because it is not normal. But my Dad says that it is a good thing to not be normal, because nobody is normal, but everybody is not normal for different reasons. And my reason is that I can shape shift.

MINDY pauses nervously. She looks down at her feet - and then at MRS HELENSON, who is beaming. MINDY regains confidence.

MINDY (cont'd)

But my Mum says that I have to be careful with my powers. Because it is not the only thing I have. She says I need to make sure that I do not use it to hide who I really am. Because I can shape-shift, but I can't change myself. I always come back to being me, and I have to be just as proud of that as I am of my powers.

(pause)

I can be so much, I can be whatever I want. And my Mum and Dad say that that is true in two different ways, and that they are both very exciting.

(she looks up, a new
air of confidence,
she grins)

I always think of new things to be.
And then I try to be them.

She looks out at the class. She still has their full attention - but she doesn't know what else to say. The room becomes silent, and MINDY starts getting nervous again. Until..

ELLIE stands up in the middle of the class.

ELLIE
I would be a big tiger.

One by one other children stand up.

DYLAN
(only BSL)
I would be a snake.

CLARA
I would be a blue whale. A red one.

NATHANIEL
I would be a frog. Then I could get close to frogspawn without being scared.

SAM
I would be a big T-Rex. One that is really good at rugby.

The whole class stand up, excitedly shouting out what they would shape-shift in to. MINDY is clearly elated.

The school bell rings and a light flashes above the door. MRS HELENSON opens the door and the class run out - MINDY is in the middle of them.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR. MID-MORNING.

The SCHOOL CHILDREN run down the corridor. SAM runs like a T-Rex, NATHANIEL hops like a frog, CLARA moves slowly like a blue whale. All the class play pretend - other than MINDY, who runs alongside them laughing and skipping. She is just being MINDY.

They run past another classroom just as the door opens. MR KERR, 50s, steps outside and watches the CHILDREN run down the corridor in disgust. MRS HELENSON follows them.

MR KERR

(sternly)

Mrs Helenson, I don't like to judge your teaching methods but that is simply unacceptable.

MRS HELENSON smiles as she walks past him.

MRS HELENSON

I think I would be a clown fish. I've always liked them.

MR KERR looks baffled as he watches MRS HELENSON and the children leave in to the playground.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. DAY.

The SCHOOL CHILDREN run out on the the open playground and split off in different directions, all running in character and making noises. MINDY stands in the middle, laughing.

DYLAN runs over. They speak using BSL.

DYLAN

What are you going to be?

MINDY

(taking a moment to think)

An aeroplane.

DYLAN

Me too!

DYLAN holds out his arms as wings and starts running in circles around MINDY. She laughs, and then seems to consider..

After a moment she holds out her arms too, and joins DYLAN in running around.

BIRDS EYE VIEW: The SCHOOL CHILDREN all run around the playground, pretending to be all sorts of things - MINDY is somewhere in there. She, too, is pretending.

FADE OUT

THE END.