

ORDINARY GIRL, EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

Written by

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INT. DARK PROJECTOR ROOM - DAY

A dusty projector sits on a table in the middle of the room. 20 filing cabinets, each marked with a number 1-21, take up an entire wall.

Light shines into the room for a moment as a WOMAN (21) steps inside, then closes the door behind her.

We don't see her full face as she walks towards the projector, blows the dust off of it, and turns it on.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I never thought anyone would be
interested in a story about my
life.

The woman walks to the first filing cabinet and opens it. She pulls out a baby photo.

She walks back to the projector, laying the photo inside it, so the photo is projected onto the wall.

The photo turns into a video as we--

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

A NURSE hands NEWBORN JORDAN to KIM SUDDUTH (Late 20s), a patient, kind, and supportive wife and mother, who lies in her hospital bed.

Beside her stands her husband GREGG SUDDUTH (Late 20s), loving, fiercely supportive, and always the funniest person in the room, holding their son, PRESCHOOL BRAYDEN (3), who will grow up to be a slightly cynical, but loving, protective older brother.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I was born at 8:43 PM on April 13,
2001. Which just so happened to be
Good Friday and Friday the 13th.
Pretty cool, if you ask me.

Kim, Gregg, and Brayden greet their new family member enthusiastically.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

INFANT JORDAN (1) sits on the floor, playing with the toys Brayden brings her.

Gregg and Kim videotape them, smiling at the way the two get along.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Let me get this out of the way
first: I was no child prodigy.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

A large beanbag sits at the entrance to the computer room.

KINDERGARTEN BRAYDEN (5) and TODDLER JORDAN (2) take turns running to jump on the beanbag, and then roll down.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I was clumsy.

Jordan jumps on the beanbag and hits her head on the piano as she rolls down.

Brayden rushes to her side, panicked.

YOUNG BRAYDEN
(calling out)
Mom!

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. SUDDUTH CAR - DAY

Brayden holds pressure to Jordan's forehead as Kim drives to the hospital.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
And I mean--

INT. SUDDUTH CAR - ANOTHER DAY

PRESCHOOL JORDAN (3) sits in the backseat, a white cast covering her left arm up to her elbow.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Like really--

INT. SUDDUTH CAR - ANOTHER DAY

A few months later Jordan sits in the backseat with a purple cast on the same arm.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Really clumsy.

END MONTAGE.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Christmas decorations fill the living room. Jordan hides in a corner of the couch as Santa attempts to say hello to her.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I was painfully shy around anyone I
didn't know. Including Santa.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jordan stands in front of the TV, mimicking Peter Pan on screen.

PETER PAN (ON SCREEN)
Falls down dead!

PRESCHOOL JORDAN
(mimicking Peter)
Falls down dead!

Jordan falls to the floor as Peter does.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
With people I knew though, I was
always putting on shows.

Kim laughs, entertained, as she watches her from the kitchen.

Hearing her Mom, Jordan looks back and smiles.

PRESCHOOL JORDAN
Mommy?

KIM
Yes?

PRESCHOOL JORDAN
I'm gonna be on TV some day.

KIM
Really?

Jordan nods, confident.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
So naturally--

INT. BALLET CLASS - DAY

Jordan stands in class with OTHER YOUNG GIRLS and their BALLET TEACHER (30s).

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Ballet class it was.

One GIRL (3) walks up to the teacher and whispers to her. The teacher nods and addresses the rest of the class.

BALLET TEACHER
Girls, have a seat quietly until I
get back, please.

The ballet teacher leads the girl out of the room.

Jordan obediently sits down, but the rest of the girls start YELLING and running around.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
People were always so loud. And why
couldn't they listen?

Jordan covers her ears, miserable.

INT. SMALL THEATRE - NIGHT

Kim and Gregg sit in the audience as the ballet class rehearses on stage. Brayden sits beside them on the floor, playing with toy cars.

Kim takes photos of Jordan with her camera.

Jordan spots the camera and waves excitedly.

Kim and Gregg wave back.

INT. SMALL THEATRE - NIGHT

A few hours later, the theatre is filled with PROUD PARENTS.

INT. SMALL THEATRE - STAGE - NIGHT

Jordan performs with her class on stage.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
And yet, even though I couldn't
understand them...

Suddenly, an EMOTIONAL GIRL (3) sits down on stage in tears.

Jordan notices immediately, and though she tries not to, she starts to get upset.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I empathized with them.

Another BALLET GIRL (4) turns to look at her.

BALLET GIRL
Why are you crying?

PRESCHOOL JORDAN
Because she's crying.

And with that, Jordan sits down too, overcome with emotion.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
And it sucked.

INT. KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM - DAY

KINDERGARTEN JORDAN (5) cries in a corner of her kindergarten classroom. Her teacher, MS. JETTON (30s) tries to comfort her.

MS. JETTON
I promise you'll see them after school today. Do you want to come color with us in the meantime?

Jordan sniffles, but doesn't answer.

MS. JETTON (CONT'D)
Just join us when you're ready, okay?

Ms. Jetton walks back to the front of the classroom.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
The transition from pre-school to kindergarten was rough, to put it lightly.

Jordan struggles to dry her eyes and pull herself together.

One of her classmates, KATELYN (5), gets out of her seat and walks up to Jordan.

KINDERGARTEN KATELYN
I miss my parents too. But we'll see them soon.
(beat)
(MORE)

KINDERGARTEN KATELYN (CONT'D)

I'm Katelyn. You wanna be friends?
You can sit by me, if you want.

Jordan thinks for a moment, then nods. She follows Katelyn to her seat.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

But at least I made my first real friend.

INT. DARK PROJECTOR ROOM - DAY

The woman closes the number 5 cabinet and opens number 6, only to pull out blurry photographs.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

It is with immense sadness that I admit that my mind has chosen to dump most of my elementary school memories.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- The woman pulls out more blurry photos from cabinets 7-10.
- The woman places some of the blurry photos under the projector, but no videos play.
- Blurry photos fall to the floor.
- The woman pulls out the cabinets entirely, dumping their contents on the floor.
- With the exception of a few, every photo on the floor is blurry. The woman desperately grabs at the clear photos.
- The clear photo under the projector flickers, struggling to play its memory.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

And a lot of the ones I do have are the ones I wish I had forgotten.

END SERIES OF SHOTS.

INT. SECOND GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

SECOND GRADE JORDAN (7) sits at her desk, turned around like the rest of the CLASS to face her SECOND GRADE TEACHER (30s), who points at a used tissue on the table.

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

We are not going out to recess
until the person who left this here
throws it away.

No one moves.

Jordan and SECOND GRADE KATELYN (7) share a look. Katelyn
shakes her head at Jordan, willing her not to do what she's
about to.

Jordan doesn't listen and stands. She walks towards the back
of the room.

SECOND GRADE TEACHER (CONT'D)

Jordan, sit back down please.

SECOND GRADE JORDAN

But, I--

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

I know it wasn't you. I appreciate
your willingness to help though.

Jordan turns back around to head back to her seat. She passes
Katelyn.

SECOND GRADE JORDAN

(to Katelyn)

We're never going to recess.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

We never went to recess.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH ROOM - DAY

Jordan sits in the loud lunchroom, picking at her food.

MUSIC begins to play throughout the lunchroom, quieting most
of the tables.

Jordan's table, however, does not quiet.

Distressed, Jordan SHUSHES those around her.

SECOND GRADE JORDAN

(whispering)

The music's on, we have to be
quiet.

No one listens to her.

Jordan watches in misery as a LUNCHROOM AID switches their green cup at the end of their table to a yellow one.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - KITCHEN TABLE - NIGHT

Jordan sits with her parents and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BRAYDEN (9) at the dinner table.

SECOND GRADE JORDAN

I just don't understand why they can't be quiet.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BRAYDEN

Because the music's annoying.

SECOND GRADE JORDAN

I know it's annoying, but it gets us in trouble, which means I get in trouble.

(to her parents)

I wish you could come eat with me every day. Eating outside is so much better.

Beat.

Gregg notices Jordan's still upset.

GREGG

You okay?

SECOND GRADE JORDAN

What if we get in trouble again tomorrow and it's worse than no recess? What if we all have to turn our cards to yellow? I can't do that again, I really can't--

GREGG

You don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, right? So why worry about it now?

SECOND GRADE JORDAN

I can't help it!

(beat)

If you had a brain like mine, you'd understand.

Jordan states it as a fact, not as a rude comment. Kim and Gregg nod. Brayden rolls his eyes. This is clearly something Jordan has said many times before.

KIM
You're right. We would.

INT. DARK PROJECTOR ROOM - DAY

The woman slides the last clear photo from her stack out from the projector.

She brings them back to the open cabinets and begins to put the room back together.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
My therapist called it a trauma bubble, caused by an overworked vagus nerve. Which basically means my fight or flight mode erased half of my school memories.

The woman begins to clean up the photos on the floor.

She stares at the blurry photos in her hands.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I'm still holding out hope that I'll get them back someday.

She continues to put them back in their respective filing cabinets.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
But until that day, I rely on my parents' memories, photos, and my old school work.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Kim and Gregg sit down in a parent teacher conference.

Ms. Jetton sits opposite them.

MS. JETTON
Jordan has made incredible progress this year. I've watched her confidence grow, and I love all her stories--

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Jordan's FIRST GRADE TEACHER (30s) sits in front of Gregg and Kim.

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

I'll certainly miss having her in my class. She's a great student, with a clear love for reading. She exceeded the Georgia standard for first grade English Language Arts and Reading by 60 and 70 points, respectively.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Kindergarten Jordan sits out in the hallway, reading.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Second Grade Jordan sits in the hallway, reading a book above her reading level.

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Her 2nd grade test scores indicate she's reading at a 5th grade level.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Jordan's Second Grade Teacher sits in front of Gregg and Kim.

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

School as a whole seems to come naturally to her and she's always the first to help anyone in need.

KIM

That's great to hear. She was reluctant to for a while after she was punished for doing so.

The Second Grade Teacher chooses not to reply.

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Does she have any interests other than reading?

GREGG

She jumps from thing to thing
pretty quickly.

KIM

She definitely keeps us on our
toes. But she's great at keeping
herself entertained too.

END MONTAGE.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - PLAYROOM - DAY

Second Grade Jordan sits on the couch, reading a book.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

And I was. While my individual
activities were...interesting, no
one really saw them as concerning.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Second Grade Jordan and Katelyn play a high energy pretend game together.
- Jordan draws a picture, her crayons in a meticulous line. As she uses one to draw a square on her paper, she places it at the back of the line. She takes the next crayon and does the same thing, creating a page of colored squares.
- Jordan lines up her Littlest Pet Shop toys in a row.
- Jordan stacks Legos in rows by type.
- Jordan washes the windows as she sings along to "It's a Hard Knock Life" from "Annie" on the TV.
- Jordan takes DVDs out of their cases, then stacks the DVDs and cases separately.

INT. THIRD GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

THIRD GRADE JORDAN (8) listens to her teacher as she holds up a book.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

In third grade, I was unexpectedly
introduced to my first passion.

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Each group will put on a skit of
the scene you were assigned.

Jordan's eyes widen.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - JORDAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jordan lays in bed, praying.

THIRD GRADE JORDAN

If my group picks me as the lead,
I'll work harder than I ever have
in my life. Please God, I can do
this, I promise.

INT. THIRD GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

Jordan performs as the lead character in her group's skit.

When they finish, the rest of the classroom APPLAUDS. Jordan
and her group bow.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

I was hooked.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN (9) stares at a paper on the wall.

She sees FOURTH GRADE KATELYN (9) walk by.

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN

Hey, Kate?

Katelyn stops by her.

FOURTH GRADE KATELYN

What's up?

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN

Have you seen this? They're
starting a drama club for 4th and
5th graders.

FOURTH GRADE KATELYN

That's cool.

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN

You wanna try out together?

FOURTH GRADE KATELYN

It's not really my thing. But if
you want to, you totally should.

Jordan stares back at the paper, thinking.

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN (PRE-LAP)
Mom! Mom!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD BUS STOP - DAY

Jordan runs off the bus, beyond excited.

KIM
What? What happened?

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN
I made it! I got in the show!

Jordan and her Mom celebrate together.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I found theatre first, but it
wasn't long until I discovered
another type of acting, and another
passion.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - BASEMENT - DAY

Jordan rushes down the stairs with her friend HANNAH (9) in tow. She clutches her Mom's video camera.

HANNAH
A what?

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN
A web show! It's like a bunch of
funny skits put together. There's a
tv show about one right now, have
you seen it? iCarly?

HANNAH
What about it?

Jordan and Hannah stop at the bottom of the stairs.

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN
Do you wanna make one? Just for
fun?

Hannah shrugs.

HANNAH
Sure!

Jordan celebrates and she and Hannah run into the basement playroom.

INT. SUDDUTH HOME - BASEMENT PLAYROOM - DAY

Jordan hits record on the video camera, then runs back to stand beside Hannah.

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN
Hello there, people of Earth! I'm
Jordi.

HANNAH
And I'm Hannah.

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN
And this is--

HANNAH
The Something Show!

FOURTH GRADE JORDAN (CONT'D)
The Something Show!

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
I haven't put the camera down
since.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAGE - DAY

FIFTH GRADE JORDAN (10) bows on stage with the rest of the CAST. She's dressed as Centipede from "James and the Giant Peach."

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
It was after my "big role" as
Centipede in James and the Giant
Peach that I really wanted to get
into acting. Which was a bit of a
bummer, because--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - OUTSIDE DRAMA ROOM - DAY

SIXTH GRADE JORDAN (11), now with dyed bright red hair, stares at a flyer outside the drama room door.

The flyer advertises the school musical, and encourages 7th and 8th graders to audition, but not 6th graders

SIXTH GRADE JORDAN
(devastated)
6th graders can't audition?

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
No, no they couldn't.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - ATRIUM - DAY

Jordan walks back from lunch with her class. She walks alone, and holds a stuffed purple giraffe under her arm.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Sixth grade was a pretty tough year from what I remember. I coped with the drastic elementary to middle school transition by choosing to imitate one of my favorite TV characters at school.

Jordan spots EIGHTH GRADE BRAYDEN (14) walking down the atrium stairs with his CLASS, heading to lunch.

Jordan waves excitedly.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Yes, it's exactly as embarrassing as it sounds. It would have been easy for my brother to ignore me, pretend I wasn't his sister--

Brayden gives a wave back as they cross paths. Jordan's eyes light up.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
But he never did. And it meant more than anything.

INT. ACTING STUDIO - DAY

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Outside of school however, being myself was easier, and I found my love for film acting.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Jordan acts out a commercial in front of the camera.
- Jordan takes notes from her acting teacher, MR. KEN (Late 30s).
- Jordan and her ACTING CLASSMATES do a warm up together, having a great time.

END SERIES OF SHOTS.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Mr. Ken and his SMALL FILM CREW set up in the backyard.

SEVENTH GRADE JORDAN (12) sits alone, focused on her script as she goes over her lines one more time.

MR. KEN

Jordi, we're ready for you!

SEVENTH GRADE JORDAN

Kk!

Jordan rushes off to set.

EXT. RED CARPET PREMIERE - DAY

Mr. Ken helps Jordan, dressed in a beautiful, elegant purple dress, out of the limo parked in front of the red carpet.

SUPPORTERS line the red carpet on both sides, including Kim, Gregg, and NINTH GRADE BRAYDEN (15).

The crowd CHEERS as Jordan begins to walk down the red carpet. She waves at everyone.

When she spots her parents and brother, she gives them an incredulous look, like she can't believe this is all happening.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

There was something about film that was so special to me.

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - DAY

Jordan sits next to her parents and brother as her short film plays on the big screen.

She half hides her face, overwhelmed at watching herself.

The short film ends, and the audience APPLAUDS.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)

It was love at first scene.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - FRONT HALLWAY - DAY

EIGHTH GRADE JORDAN (13) walks past a flyer on the wall, then steps back to take a closer look.

JORDAN-PAIGE (V.O.)
Then I realized, I enjoyed being
behind *and* in front of the camera.
So why not do both?

The flyer advertises the school's annual Reflections contest.

Her finger hovers over the Film Production category, clearly getting an idea.