

*Summer*

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(SPEC)

(FINAL DRAFT)

EXT. WHEAT FIELD – DAY

A FLURRY of wind breathes life into the wheat stalks of a golden field. They sway under the bleached out, monochrome sky – summer begins, same as always.

Drifting the field, BOY (8-10) with sandy-blond, parted hair and a striped blue T-Shirt. A RED BALLOON tied to his wrist is outstretched in the air, whipping with the Flurry.

Boy ambles along with his attention at his shoes. He perks up suddenly, stopping in his tracks. Boy stares ahead.

AHEAD

With her back to Boy, GIRL (8-10) curly-brown hair, violet sundress, with a RED BALLOON tied to her wrist. Girl combs the wheat stalks, strolling in admiration of the horizon.

Girl slows, turning aside, revealing her profile to Boy. She breaks the peduncle of a wheat stalk, smelling the kernel. The Flurry seems to immortalize the moment.

BACK

Boy parts the stalks, stepping closer – curiosity abound.

AHEAD

All at once, Girl's peripheral is disturbed and she turns...

BACK

Boy gasps in dread, pouncing into the stalks. Taking cover.

AHEAD

Girl giggles daintily, looking in Boy's direction...

BACK

Boy's Red Balloon is protruding from the wheat stalks.

Squatted in a ball, Boy stays low. His wiry arms are wrapped over his head – a shabby attempt at being covert.

His eyes are shut tight as SMALL FOOTSTEPS CRUNCH CLOSER. Tense moments pass... THE SMALL FOOTSTEPS STOP NEARBY.

Boy peeks through his intertwined arms... Girl's beat-up, orange sneakers are planted in the mud before him. Boy climbs awkwardly to his feet...

Girl is standing plainly in front of him. Their Red Balloons are sailing in the Flurry.

He watches her with that deer in headlights look. A smirk is growing steadily on Girl's face. Boy grins from ear-to-ear. Her lips part with a smile. She takes off running.

A dumbfounded expression is wiped across Boy's face as he watches her go... He dashes forward as if a rope is tugging.

Boy and Girl are chasing through the wheat field, laughing as the Flurry shakes the stalks and bounces their Red Balloons – the epitome of free-spirited synergy.

LATER

The Red Balloons are tangled up together, reaching toward the cloudy sky.

Boy and Girl are lying on flattened stalks, gazing upward. Girl points into the air at a cloud shaped like a bicycle. Boy smiles. He points aside at a cloud shaped like T-Rex.

Girl laughs. Something catches her eye. She points up to a cloud in the shape of a bushel of balloons. Boy is looking plainly at Girl. She turns, gazing toward him – young love.

Girl smiles and rises suddenly. She sprints through the wheat field. Boy laughs, popping up. He chases after her.

BEHIND

Boy follows Girl as she grows further away. He winces, looking out at her. Boy hurries to catch up.

AHEAD

Girl runs careless and free. She checks her shoulder, looking back at Boy... She trips, stumbling into the wheat stalks and her Red Balloon is pulled down with her.

BEHIND

Boy skids to a stop. He can't see Girl or her Red Balloon.

He strides through the wheat field, worried, as the stalks swim in the Flurry. In anxious moments, Boy approaches the spot where he last saw Girl. He parts the stalks nervously..

Girl is lying upon crushed wheat stalks. She's crying. Boy's eyes trail aside... Girl's Red Balloon has popped. The red-rubber skin beside her is turning over in the Flurry.

She looks up at Boy but turns away sharply, embarrassed of her tears. Boy lowers his gaze in sympathy. A conviction grows within him. He frowns in resolve – maturity abound.

Stepping up to Girl, Boy unties the Red Balloon from his wrist. He drops his head, extending his Balloon to her. She's taken by surprise, tears smeared across her cheeks.

Girl rises, enchanted by the Balloon. Boy stays, Balloon extended, with his head bowed. She steps up hesitant, reaching out bit-by-bit... Girl takes Boy's Red Balloon.

Boy drops his arm. His eyes bump up to Girl. She's smiling at him sweetly. He smirks a little. Suddenly his attention is brought to Girl's feet. Girl looks down puzzled..

Her beat-up, orange sneakers lift from the ground. Boy's Red Balloon carries Girl up toward the sky. Girl's hair tosses in the Flurry as she ascends. She holds on tightly.

BELOW

Boy stands amongst the stalks as they wave in the Flurry. He watches in disbelief as Girl is soaring above him.

ABOVE

Girl is flying higher and higher, floating toward the clouds. She's looking down at Boy. She waves goodbye.

BELOW

Boy stares up in melancholy, facing an empty sky. He's standing alone in the field.

The wheat stalks are still – summer ends, same as always.

CUT TO BLACK

END