

Upchuck

by

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1 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

A sunny morning in a clean residential street. A postman on his rounds passes a boy cycling past.

Close in on one house with gnomes and garden decorations outside.

2 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The bedroom of a teenage girl. There are posters all over the walls, mostly of cute animals and models. Decoration is fussy and floral.

A loud, strained RETCHING SOUND fills the room.

12-year-old KIMBERLEY is in bed, bent over a large plastic bowl and retching into it. Sitting on the bed, with an expression of disgust, is her well-groomed MOTHER. She inspects a thermometer.

Kimberley sits up, sweating, and shakes her head: nothing has come up. Mother sighs in sympathy, brushes Kimberley's hair out of her face and neatens her dressing gown lapel.

Mother exits and Kimberley lies back on her pillows.

3 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The house is decorated with porcelain ornaments, mostly cute animals, and glamorous studio photos of Mother and Kimberley. Mother walks through, neatening the ornaments without stopping.

4 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kimberley lies glumly in bed. Outside some children are LAUGHING - she looks out of the window with longing.

She feels sick again - she sits up and bends over the bowl. It's just dry retches again, but they become fiercer and more strained. Then the sound changes; something is coming up. Kimberley's mouth is filled, and out comes a tiny kitten.

The kitten lands softly in the bowl and looks around. Kimberley is stunned. She lifts the bowl and inspects the kitten. Her eyes widen in fear.

Kimberley lifts the kitten out of the bowl and holds it up. It's small, fluffy and adorable. Kimberley's horror

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turns to joy. She cuddles the kitten.

She lets the kitten walk around on her duvet, playing with it. She is infatuated.

She feels sick, and grabs the bowl. She vomits again. A second kitten appears, landing softly in the bowl as the first did.

Kimberley laughs, wiping away tears and sweat. She brings the two kittens together and plays with them.

She looks at the bowl. She looks at the kittens. She holds the bowl and tries retching to make something come up. It doesn't quite work. She puts two fingers down her throat. It's awkward and painful, but eventually it works. The two kittens watch on.

5 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Mother sprays the thermometer with disinfectant and wipes it clean. She hears Kimberley RETCHING upstairs, and winces.

6 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Another kitten drops in the bowl. Kimberley puts it with the others - now four total. She is pale and red-eyed, drenched in sweat and exhausted. She immediately puts her fingers down her throat again.

7 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A steaming bowl of tomato soup and a mug of hot water sits on a tray. Mother pours a sachet of Lemsip into the mug.

Mother picks up the tray and takes it upstairs.

8 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mother carries the tray to Kimberley's room. She knocks once and enters.

9 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Opening the door, Mother is aghast to find Kimberley lying in bed surrounded by kittens who clamber all over her. She is gaunt and pale, and looks more sick than ever. She smiles at Mother, completely overwhelmed with joy.

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