

Cori Thomas – My Secret Language of Wishes

For The Monologue Project

From: MY SECRET LANGUAGE OF WISHES

By Cori Thomas

Rose is a 17 year old African American girl. She has Cerebral Palsy and a seizure disorder. She was abandoned at birth and has grown up in a group home. One of the aides is 24 year old Dakota. A tough Bronx born Caucasian young woman who adores Rose. When Brenda a very wealthy African American woman shows up at the home and decides she wants to adopt Rose, Rose asks Dakota if she would adopt her instead. This leads to a custody battle.

(Spot on ROSE. She is in her bedroom at the facility. She wheels herself to a mirror and sits looking at herself.)

ROSE

Hi, Rosie. You're gonna look pretty today, right? In my dreams, you're gonna walk and run all day long without getting tired, and without having seizures and waking up with the pee pee running down my leg and the snot coming out of my nose. In my dreams, I can dance like a ballerina. In my dreams, I don't have to wish for anything anymore 'cause I have it. All. Every night before I go to bed, when I look out the window, even on my seizure days, even when I'm in a bad mood, I close my eyes and then open them and look quick and stop at the first star I see and I make a wish. Dakota taught me how to do it. I wish so hard. The same wishes every night, two or three, not more than three, until they come true, then you can change to a new wish. I wish for kissing in my secret language of wishes, in words only my heart knows, in words I can't even say out loud 'cause I don't know them. Like the way Dakota and Bobby kiss when they think I'm not looking, but I am. Like in the movies with your eyes closed. You and another person stuck together with your eyes closed like you're both one person.

In my closed eye kiss wish, this guy, he's my boyfriend, and he has brown hair and he has nice smiling eyes with crinkles at the side, and I just know he's a kind person, he bends over, 'cause he's so tall, and he has a strong back and arms, and he picks me up, and I put my arms around his neck cause I'm afraid he's going to drop me, but nuh uh, he's not going to do that, and he holds me, and his neck smells clean, and I'm wearing my pink princess nightgown I got for my birthday, and we kiss, we kiss

and kiss and kiss forever. When I told Dakota about how much I wanted to kiss a boy one day, she said, it'll happen, just wait and see.

She says when she gets her hands on me and blows my hair out and lets me borrow her eyeshadow and paints my nails, when she gets me some cute bell bottoms she saw at Target in Queens but didn't have enough money to buy, when I'm grown up, it'll happen. I'll find someone who'll want to kiss me all the time. She says kissing isn't all that and there's other stuff too, but I know it is, all that. And since it's my wish it can be whatever I want it to be.