

INT. PRATCHETT'S HOUSE - THE KITCHEN - DAY

Martha washing dishes at the sink, her mind clearly elsewhere...

Norbert enters with his shirt half on, his tie dangling loosely around his neck...

NORBERT

Help me with this, will you,  
Martha?

Martha continues to wash the dishes, oblivious to him.

Norbert steps directly behind her.

NORBERT

Martha?

Martha jumps back, slightly startled.

MARTHA

I'm sorry. I'm... I guess  
I can't stop thinking about it.

She turns off the water, dries her hands...

MARTHA

I guess I'm still a little bit  
rattled.

NORBERT

Well, it looks like you're going  
to get your wish after all. You  
should be proud.

Martha helps him with his tie... She suddenly hesitates, looks past him, through

POV - THE KITCHEN WINDOW

Little Emerald runs toward the house at full stride with Jason and Rebecca by her side. Behind them, the three social workers from the court room step methodically, steadfast, also toward the house...

EXT. PRATCHETT'S HOUSE - THE KITCHEN DOOR - DAY

Norbert and Martha storm out the side door into

THE FRONT YARD

as Emerald, Jason and Rebecca run into them, out of breath and clearly upset...

Together, simultaneously...

EMERALD

They want to take me away!

JASON

They're here for Emerald! They're here for her!

REBECCA

Mommy, please don't let them take her. Please!

EMERALD

Daddy! Please! Daddy!

The social workers approach Norbert and Martha...

NORBERT

(to Martha)

Take the kids inside.

Martha leads all the kids indoors. Norbert stands his ground, waits for the three intruders to make the first move.

SOCIAL WORKER #1

Mr. Pratchett, we're here for Amy. Considering the circumstances, it is the best thing for everyone.

NORBERT

Were you not at the hearing two days ago?

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SOCIAL WORKER #1

The ruling does not affect us  
in any way. It is our choice  
how to proceed from here.

Norbert clenches his fists, steps closer...

NORBERT

(at low breath; pissed)

Then I want you to listen very  
carefully to me because I am  
only going to say this once.  
Emerald is going nowhere. This  
is her home. This is where she  
wants to be. This is where her  
family wanted her to be -- and  
I will be damned to Hell if I am  
going to allow the likes of you  
to come in here and tear this  
little girl's world apart for the  
sake of your God-damned political  
agenda!

SOCIAL WORKER #2

It is for her own good--

NORBERT

You don't know the first thing  
about her. She's nothing more  
than a number on a file to you!  
You come here like this, without  
a court order, without a police  
escort, without nothing but your  
own asses to look out for, and  
you expect me to hand her over  
to you?! You weren't there when  
she really needed you -- I'll be  
damned if I'm going to hand her  
over to you now. If you think  
for one God-damned second that  
you're going to intimidate me  
with your fucking bull-shit, you've  
got another thing coming!