

LETTING GO

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The soft murmur of conversation mixes with somber music.

People dressed in dark clothing mingle.

Flower arrangements and condolence cards line the mantle, trays of barely touched food on the coffee table.

Across the room at the foot of the stairs is JASON MILLER (35), handsome despite his sullen expression.

He scans the room full of solemn faces then labors up the steps.

UPSTAIRS

As Jason walks down the hall, his eyes fix on a portrait of himself, his wife Jenna and four year old daughter Lily.

He stops in between two open doors, looks to the left, into Lily's room.

Sunlight beams off a child size kitchen set, plastic eggs still in the pan.

He turns away, pain in his eyes.

He looks to the right, into the

MASTER BEDROOM

In a navy blue dress and heels, JENNA MILLER (30), sits listlessly on the edge of the bed.

She stares ahead, not even a glance when Jason enters the room.

He sits next to her, takes her hand in his.

JASON

Jenna? You haven't moved for hours.

She offers no response. He kisses her hand.

JASON (CONT'D)

Don't you even want to see who's downstairs?

JENNA

I only want to see one person.

She slowly moves her head toward Lily's bedroom.

JASON

What if that never happens?

JENNA

She has to come back. This is her home.

Jason looks at her sympathetically.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Still in their dress clothes, Jenna and Jason lay asleep on the bed.

A little girl's voice and the clatter of toys comes from Lily's room.

Jenna's eyes flutter then open.

She slides from under Jason's arm and sits up, listens intently.

With Jason still asleep, she gets out of bed and tip toes to the door.

Her eyes light up as she looks across the hall. Standing in front of the play kitchen, her back to the door is LILY (4).

Lily opens the refrigerator, takes out a basket of plastic food.

Jenna quietly moves into the

HALLWAY

Outside Lily's door, Jenna watches with tears in her eyes.

Her hand trembles. Unable to hold back, Jenna slowly pushes Lily's door all the way open.

The door creaks, Lily quickly turns around.

Jenna stands in the doorway just a few feet away from Lily.

JENNA

Lily?

She reaches toward Lily but a hand grabs Jenna's arm and pulls her back into the

MASTER BEDROOM

Jason holds onto Jenna's arm.

JASON
What are you doing Jenna?

She struggles, tries to get away.

JENNA
I told you she'd come back.

JASON
This isn't right and you know it!

LILY (O.S.)
Mommy?

He sits her on the bed. She tries to get up but Jason holds her down.

JASON
You have to let go!

JENNA
I can't! She's all alone!

Jenna stands up, tries to leave but Jason holds her tight.

JASON
She's not alone. There are people who will look after her. They'll help her move on.

Jenna breaks away, runs to the door but stops short when she sees her Mother, MIMI DOUGLAS (65) standing with Lily.

JENNA
(whisper)
Mom?

Jason walks up behind her, puts his hands on her shoulders.

They watch from the doorway.

INT. LILY'S BEDROOM

Mimi kneels down, wipes a tear from Lily's cheek.

MIMI
What's the matter?

LILY
I want my Mommy.

As she hugs Lily, Mimi looks up, sees her husband JOHN DOUGLAS (70) standing at the door.

MIMI
It's okay. Your Grandpa and I will
take care of you Lily.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jason and Jenna watch as Mimi picks up Lily then walks with John down the hall.

Panicked, Jenna reaches her hand out, tries to touch Lily as they walk by.

Lightly brushed by Jenna's hand, Lily looks over Mimi's shoulder and makes eye contact with Jenna.

Frightened, she clings tightly to Mimi and buries her face as they walk down the stairs.

JENNA
She's scared of me Jason.

Jason tries to comfort her.

JENNA (CONT'D)
I have to let her go.

EXT. HOUSE

With Lily in Mimi's arms, John guides them out the front door and down the steps.

JOHN
I'll send someone over to pick up
Lily's things. This is just too
painful for any of us.

They walk toward their car, passed a makeshift memorial in the front yard of candles, flowers, photos and a newspaper clipping:

"LOCAL COUPLE KILLED IN CAR CRASH, LEAVE BEHIND YOUNG DAUGHTER."

EXT. HOUSE

Jenna stands at Lily's bedroom window, watches Mimi strap her into the car seat then close the door.

Jenna places her hand on the glass.

As the car pulls away, Lily looks up toward her bedroom.

Only a faint handprint remains on the window.

FADE OUT