

WE'VE ALREADY SAID GOODBYE

FADE IN...

MODERN DAY.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM WALL - MORNING

Travelling along the lounge room wall into the kitchen,
lots of framed photographs of:

- Hannah with different friends at different events from her university days, all drinking;
- Hannah's graduation;
- Hannah's 21st with her holding a glass of wine in each hand laughing;
- Hannah and Alexander kissing at their engagement party, Hannah with a champagne flute in her hand, which becomes animated and shows after the flash of the photograph Alexander trying to grab the glass out of Hannah's hand but she succeeds in moving beyond his reach and laughs at his attempt;
- Hannah and Alexander's wedding photo, which becomes animated to show Hannah reaching to pick up a glass of wine placed on the floor just out of frame;
- Hannah pregnant;
- various photos of the baby from newborn to toddler.
- An old, black and white photo of a woman with a glass of wine in her hand laughing, in a frame marked "Mother", which becomes animated with sounds of laughter and party noises, as the lady takes another sip of wine, clearly tipsy, and spills some on the table: rosary beads hang from this photo frame.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

HANNAH, 25, sits slumped in a kitchen chair, head in hand, in her pajamas, coffee in front of her, pretending to be interested in LILY's, 4, chatter, as she eats toast.

LILY

Mummy, Sophia's doll has different shoes to mine. And she has lots of handbags and dresses because she got more for her birthday.

Hannah, from her seated position, reaches across the kitchen, knocks the cupboard door open and answers:

HANNAH

Mmm...? Really?

and pulls out an almost empty bottle of bourbon.

LILY

But I like mine more than hers 'cos she's got blonde hair AND green shoes, and hers doesn't. Her mum lets her put lipstick on her doll too - can I use your lipstick?"

Hannah absent-mindedly slopping in a shot of bourbon into her coffee. Hannah puts the bottle back in the cupboard and uses her foot to close the cupboard.

HANNAH

Mmmm... what, honey? Umm no... maybe.

Lily takes another bite of toast and speaks while chewing.

LILY

But, why, Mummy? That's not fair. I want to make my doll pretty like Sophia's. Mummy?

EXT. DRIVEWAY OUTSIDE LILY'S ROOM AT HANNAH'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

ALEXANDER, 32, is standing with one foot in the driver side with the car door open about to sit down.

ALEXANDER (V.O.)(angrily, barely audible)

Do you expect me to believe you, Hannah? I can smell it on your breath!

HANNAH (V.O.)(defensive, barely audible)

It's none of your business!

ALEXANDER (V.O.)

She's my daughter too! Don't expect to pull the poor, innocent mother routine in front of the Judge: I won't stop until I get custody, Hannah.

HANNAH (V.O.)(contemptuously)

Everyone drinks, Alexander. It's not against the law!

INT. LILY'S BEDROOM - ANOTHER DAY, AFTERNOON

Lily holds a toy dinosaur in her left hand and Mrs Potato Head in her right hand: they are aggressing with each other. She is mimicking her parents' argument outside:

LILY (Deep, angry dinosaur voice)

Grrr ... Grrr. Bad girl! You are so bad!

LILY (Higher, upset Mrs Potato Head voice)

Stop yelling at me! You're so mean!

EXT. SWINGS AT A PARK - ANOTHER DAY, MID MORNING

Hannah is seated at a park table and bench with other mothers. Their children are on the swings.

MOTHER ONE

Ha! I *LOVE* that show. The *one* advantage to breastfeeding in the middle of the night is Netflix without hearing the complaints from *HIM*.

MOTHER TWO (LAUGHING)

HANNAH (LAUGHING)

I don't have that problem anymore - kick him out!

MOTHER ONE'S CHILD

Push me mummy! Push me!

Mother One gets up to give her child another push on the swing. Mother Two turns to give a snack to her child seated in a pusher. Hannah reaches into her bag, pulls out a flask and takes a swig as she waves to Lily.

INT. LILY'S BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

Dressed in a batman costume, complete with mask, Lily plays with her dolls on the floor. Hannah is leaned up against the wall, with one leg crossed over the other with a glass of wine in her hand, giggling at Lily, and looking at her with adoring eyes.

INT. LOUNGEROOM - MORNING

Hannah hurriedly collects empty bottles, hiding bottles with alcohol in them: she checks her breath, brushes her hair, swigs Listerine to cover the smell of alcohol. She grabs a stack of papers that has a Court Notice for a custody hearing on top. Brochures of Alcoholics Anonymous

fall out of the stack as she hurriedly shoves the papers on a book shelf.

HANNAH (CALLS OUT)

Are you ready for Daddy, baby?

Lily walks towards Hannah holding her favourite doll and backpack. Hannah takes the backpack and helps Lily put it on. There is a knock at the door. Hannah opens the door and with her hand on her daughter's back, ushers Lily quickly through it, then steps forward to block Alexander's view inside the house. Alexander scoops his daughter up in his arms.

ALEXANDER (EXCITED)

Babygirl! I have missed you so much. Give Daddy a kiss hello.

HANNAH

What time will you bring her back?

ALEXANDER

I'll give her bath and dinner, so around 7:30. Is that OK?

PRESENT DAY. SUMMER.

EXT. LILY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Dahlias in full blossom in a small pot outside Lily's room.

INT. LILY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Lily, in summer pyjama bottoms, gets out of her bed and walks out of her room.

INT. LOUNGEROOM - EARLY MORNING

Lily enters the lounge room and walks toward her mother's room. Passing empty wine bottles, a lipstick-stained wine glass, a pair of women's shoes strewn carelessly on the floor, a women's jacket and handbag carelessly thrown on the chair. Lily approaches a door that is ajar. She pushes the door open with her hand and enters her mother's room.

INT. HANNAH'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

A bird's eye view shows Hannah face down, passed out, lying on top of the doona, wearing a skirt and a bra: her

blouse is on the floor. Lily approaches her mother, grabbing her shoulder.

LILY

Mummy! Mummy!

Lily shakes her mother's shoulder. She turns to see her mother's phone, grabs it, and sits on the floor next to her mother's bed, and starts to play a game. The alarm goes off and Lily turns the alarm off to continue playing.

Hannah stirs a bit at the noise but falls back to sleep.

EXT. FRONT DOOR OF A HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Alexander knocks on the door. He waits for a response, doesn't get one, so he knocks again a bit louder.

ALEXANDER (SHOUTING)

Hannah! ... Hannah!

Then waits for a response. He then bangs with his fists on the door.

INT. HANNAH'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Hannah opens her eyes at the second knock. Lily is standing at the front door.

LILY (GLEEFULLY)

Daddy! Daddy!

Hannah hears the banging but hasn't registered what or who it is. Hannah shuts her eyes and re-opens them when she hears the loud banging.

Hannah wakes with a start. She rushes out of bed, grabs her robe and puts it on. She tries to smooth her hair (she is largely unsuccessful) as she rushes to the front door.

INT. HALLWAY - EARLY MORNING

Hannah reaches for the handle and guides Lily away behind the door and turns the handle. As she opens the door, she looks at the scene in the lounge room.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - EARLY MORNING

Alexander is at first confused to see Hannah's messy hair and smudged make-up, and leans in to follow the direction of Hannah's gaze.

Alexander looks angrily back at Hannah, says nothing, and shakes his head. Hannah looks frightened and she tears up, holding her right hand up to her head and her left hand across her chest, realising her secret is exposed.

[FAST FORWARD]

MODERN DAY. WINTER.

From bare trees to see Hannah.

EXT. PUBLIC PARKLANDS - MORNING

Hannah is dressed in a winter coat and hat. She is warming her hands with her breath and is nervous. She is slowly pacing in front of a water fountain, looking expectantly around her, checking her watch.

She sees Lily walking in between Alexander and his new girlfriend, 25: Lily is holding their hands. She is chatting happily to Alexander.

LILY

Daddy, are we going to have chips tonight? You promised we'd have chips tonight. And I want lots. With sauce. And I want my own chips, Daddy: I don't want to share with you.

Hannah tears up and brushes fallen tears away while she keeps a smile on her face. She squats down with outstretched arms towards Lily.

Alexander, Lily and the girlfriend have reached the fountain and have stopped, five metres before Hannah.

Lily shies away hiding behind her father's leg.

Hannah takes in a sharp breath and her arms lower slightly in disappointment.

Alexander squats to whisper into Lily's ear.

ALEXANDER

It's Mummy, Babygirl! She's back from her holiday. She has missed you so much. Go on ... off you go. Go on, then. It's mummy, Lily.

Alexander smiles at Lily encouragingly, stands and gently turns her by her shoulders towards her mother.

Lily tentatively walks toward her mother, then runs into her arms.

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FADE OUT.