

Stranger

By

Byran Ferrol

Copyright (c) 2014 This
screenplay may not be used or
reproduced without the express
written permission of the
author.

FADE IN:

INT. FLORISTS. DAY

Lily, 7, peruses round the florists bemused by all the different types of flowers. She touches them lightly as she walks past them.

Her mother Jessica, mid 30s, stands at the counter talking to the florist. Only snippets of conversation can be heard.

JESSICA
(to Lily)
Stay close dear.

Lily begins to walk back to her mum.

She notices a Man, early 40s, standing outside the florists staring at her. He wears a long brown jacket and red hat. He clutches a holdall bag in his right hand.

She looks at him inquisitively as she stands frozen in the middle of the florist.

The Man puffs out his cheeks and squints his eyes.

Lily begins to laugh quietly to herself.

He then proceeds to stick out his tongue.

Lily now laughing heavier replies by sticking out her own tongue.

The Man then reverts his face back to normal then diverts Lily's attention to his hands.

He performs the old "Detached thumb" trick.

Lily's face turns from laughter to astonishment.

The Man lets out a light smile and waves his hand, indicating her to join him.

Lily hesitantly looks back at her mother but then finds herself gravitating towards him while still occasionally looking back at Jessica until she finally exits the florists.

The Man holds out his hand and wiggles the thumb he had previously "detached". Lily takes hold of it.

They stand just beyond the front glass of the florist.

Silence. The Man points in the distance. Lily nods and they proceed down the street.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE. CONTINUOUS

They enter a generic convenience store. It is empty except for the shop clerk who sits behind the counter reading a newspaper. The front page shows a story about missing children.

The clerk notices the Man and Lily and quickly puts the newspaper away.

MAN

Choose whatever sweet you want?

LILY

Any sweet?

MAN

Yup. I bet I can guess your favourite sweet.

The Man peruses round the store observing every sweet he passes.

He stops and passes his hand over a selection of sweets, looking at Lily's reaction as he does so.

He stops over "STARBURST" with his eyes still fixed on Lily.

His eyes then dart across to the packet of "STARBURST" then back at Lily.

Lily keeps a straight face trying not to give anything away.

His hand still hovers over "STARBURST". He smirks and shakes his head.

Without hesitation he picks up the neighboring sweet, "SKITTLES" and shakes them in triumph.

MAN

These.

Lily smiles and nods.

EXT. STREET. CONTINUOUS

Just outside the shop the Man takes the packet of skittles and opens it.

He bends down to Lily's level and takes out a red skittle.

He places it just before Lily's lips.

She opens her mouth and the Man places the skittle in.

Lily chews, satisfied.

They both smile at each other and let out a slight giggle.

The Man hands the rest of the packet to Lily.

He fixes her jacket and pulls up her zip.

MAN

Now, I'm going to take you to a very special place, OUR special place.

LILY

But Mumm-

MAN

Don't worry, we won't be long and I'll take care of you

He gives one last smile, takes Lily's hand and they continue to walk down the street.

EXT. PARK. DAY

Lily and The Man walk in a suburban park. There are a number of different trees and large green fields. It is eerily quiet.

Lily and the Man stop by a large lake.

It is populated by a family of ducks.

The Man retrieves a slice of bread from his holdall bag hands it to Lily

She breaks off a large chunk and chucks it into the lake. The ducks gravitate towards the bread.

(CONTINUED)

MAN

Remember. Small chunks. You don't
want to waste the bread.

The Man bends down next to Lily and takes what remains of
the bread.

He breaks off a small piece.

MAN (CONT'D)

See. Makes it easier for the ducks
to eat.

He throws the piece into the lake.

Lily then proceeds to break off small pieces of bread and
throw them into the lake.

She smiles and laughs.

LILY

Look they're eating it.

The Man looks into the lake, then back at Lily. He laughs to
himself.

He places his hand on the side of her face and rubs her
cheek gently with his thumb.

MAN

You're beautiful.

The Man looks down to her feet.

Lily's shoes are slightly covered in mud.

Specks of mud also cover legs.

MAN (CONT'D)

Oh you're all dirty.

CUT TO:

INT. MANS BATHROOM. DAY

Water spills into the bath from the tap. The bath fills up
quickly.

The Man turns the tap and the water halts.

He pours some bubble bath into the water and mixes it in
with his hand.

(CONTINUED)

Lily stands in the doorway. She wears a dressing gown.

The Man looks at her and smiles.

Lily walks further into the bathroom, closer and closer to the Man.

She stops, inches away from the man and begins to untie her dressing gown.

The man moves behind her, places his hand on her shoulder and helps the gown leave her body.

Lily stands fully naked

She stands just outside the bath and looks excitedly at the bubbles.

Behind her the man shuts the door and hangs up her dressing gown on a hook.

She enters the bath and the Man silently watches from behind.

She begins to play with the bubbles.

The Man approaches the bath and grabs a nearby bottle of shampoo.

He kneels down beside the bath, places some shampoo into his hand and begins to rub it into Lily's hair. She closes her eyes and embraces the Man's fingers running through her hair.

He rinses the foam out of her hair with a nearby shower head then leaves the bathroom while Lily continues to enjoy herself in the bath. She cups some bubbles in her hand and blows them.

A camera flash goes off.

In the doorway stands the Man holding a camera directed at Lily. She pokes her tongue out as a pose as another flash goes off. She then pouts and another flash quickly follows.

Lily directs her attention back to the bubbles and The Man takes a number of different photos of Lily playing in the bath.

He eventually lowers the camera and smiles as he watches Lily play.

The smile slowly turns sorrowful.

MAN
It's time.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. STREET. DAY

The Man walks down the street.

He carries a sleepy Lily. Her head lies on his shoulder as her eyes open and close.

She looks up and she sees a sparsely populated street as people walk behind on the pavement.

Her eyes close again.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. STREET. MOMENTS LATER

Her eyes slowly open again and the street looks different to how it previously did. She exhibits a look of confusion as the fatigue overcomes her again.

MAN (O/S)
Don't worry, we'll be there soon.

Her eyes close.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. STREET. MOMENTS LATER

BLACK. Only the foot steps of the man can be heard.

They suddenly stop.

MAN
Lily?

Her eyes open, again at a different part of the street. She looks up, the pavement behind is empty.

The Man places her on the pavement just before him.

She rubs her eyes and the Man bends down.

(CONTINUED)

MAN (CONT'D)

Remember you can see me whenever
you want.

The Man kisses her on the forehead and leaves.

Lily watches as he walks off into the distance.

Lily turns revealing herself to be outside the florists with
Jessica still at the counter.

Lily enters.

She looks back outside to where she and the Man once stood.

She looks back at Jessica.

JESSICA

Lily I told you to stay close.

Lily smiles, runs up to Jessica and grabs her hand.

INT. CAR. DAY

Jessica drives cautiously in her car.

In the back sits Lily who draws on a piece of paper.

The picture is unfinished.

Jessica looks in her rear view mirror and looks at Lily.

She continues to draw.

A slight smile appears on Jessica's face.

EXT. CEMETERY. DAY

Jessica and Lily stand beside a grave.

Jessica bends and places flowers on the grave and arranges
them neatly.

She rises to her feet as a single tear drips down her face.

Lily, composed, places her drawn picture next to the
headstone.

LILY

(whispering)

See you soon.

(CONTINUED)

Lily goes back to her mother and after a beat of silence they both walk off.

On the headstone reads "JACK QUINN LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER"

Lily's drawn picture blows slightly in the wind.

On it is a picture of a man holding hands with a little girl, he wears a red hat and long brown jacket resembling that of the Man.

FADE TO BLACK

END.