‘Life Goes On’

A Short original screenplay.

Written by:
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FADE IN.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

SARAH, 27, is sitting on the sofa.

She's looking up at JOHN, 28, a handsome man of Mexican descent.

And she's watching him as he's placing down a few hundred dollars onto the coffee table.

John's finished, that's all the money he brought with him.

He looks down at DANNY, one years old, who's playing with some cuddly toys on the floor by Sarah’s feet.

    JOHN
    I want him. I need him. And I’m not going to change my mind.

    SARAH
    And I want to talk to you.

He shakes his head.

    JOHN
    No, I want my son. Nothing else.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Sarah’s sitting up at a table, inside this family friendly restaurant.

Danny’s sitting in a high chair next to her, eating but making mess of it.

ERIN, 28, is sitting in front of Sarah on the other side of the table. Just staring at her, intense.

    ERIN
    So, after that, he just left?

Sarah nods.
SARAH
It's over. The whole marriage. It's gone.

ERIN
I'm sorry.

SARAH
I need money.

ERIN
What about your dad. He sold the house about a year ago yeah. Maybe he can help. Maybe enough time has gone by for you to be able to ask for some money.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

John's sitting up at a large glass topped table with his parents. DAD, 53, MOM, 57.

They're waiting for their food inside this upscale expensive restaurant.

John looks down at the table, spreads his hand out across the glass, takes in a deep breath.

JOHN
I know she wouldn't make a bad mother. She'd look after him the right way. She can see him but I need to raise him. He needs me. I'm willing to force her to give him to me if that's what it comes to. I just wanted to let you know that. But I'm hoping that it won't come to that. But if it does, I'm prepared.

INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

Sarah and John are sitting up at a huge table, they're on opposite sides of it, facing each other.
A smartly dressed LAWYER, 32, is sitting next to John.

He looks over at Sarah.

He puts a legal contract down onto the table, he then slides it across to her.

LAWYER
What is been offered in a very large sum.

She shakes her head.

SARAH
But I’ve not come here to sell.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY
Erin’s sitting down on the grass with Danny up in her arms.

She’s feeding him, he's well behaved and looking really cute as he’s really enjoying what he’s been fed.

INT. JOHN'S CAR - DAY
Sarah’s sitting on the backseat with John.

His car has it's own driver, and it’s been driven slowly.

John reaches across to her and holds onto her hand.

JOHN
Are you ok?

She let’s him keep a hold of her.

SARAH
No, and surely you know why?

JOHN
I know this is hard for you. I know you. So I know it is.

SARAH
Then stop it. You could if you want to.

He shakes his head.

JOHN
No. You need to do this.

SARAH
And if I don’t want to, will you make me?

JOHN
Yes, if I have to. But I’ll never try and stop you from seeing him. But this you need to do. There’s no more avoiding it.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah’s lying across her bed with Danny lying down next to her.

He’s sound asleep.

Sarah very slowly leans over the top of him, and very gently kisses his forehead.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Sarah walks through the hallway, coming to her front door she opens it to Erin.

She smiles at her and calls her in silently with her hand.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

They’re standing up at the counter.

Erin’s making herself a cup of coffee.

Sarah’s watching on. Silence.
INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah and Erin are lying across her bed together, with Danny still asleep in between them.

Erin sits up a little, whispers.

ERIN
You should think about the deal.

Sarah sits up, whispers back to her.

SARAH
Why?

ERIN
Because I think that maybe it's worth thinking about.

SARAH
Ok, but I’m still wondering why I should.

Erin nods.

INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

They're all sitting at a large glassed topped table.

Liam and Sarah on one side, John and his lawyer on the other.

The lawyer slides a large legal contract across to Sarah, she picks it up.

LAWYER
You get money. You get to see your son every fortnight. And he'll stay with you for those nights. And you also have the right to see him on birthdays and other significant holidays.

Sarah’s flicking through the numerous pages of the legal contract, a little overwhelmed by it.

JONH
I want you to sign. You could do it right now.

She shakes her head.

SARAH
Not yet.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

LIAM, 25, Sarah and John are all walking side by side along this busy city street.

John passes over a large envelope to Sarah.

She takes it and puts it straight into her pocket without even looking at it.

JOHN
I don’t want Danny to be living in that apartment, he's better than that place.

LIAM
He'd be ok in that place.

John looks over at him, annoyed.

JOHN
And you know that?

Liam nods.

LIAM
He'd always be surrounded by those who love him.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Liam and Sarah are walking just the two of them along this empty city street, keeping close together.

Liam wants to put an arm around her, but he doesn’t.

She's busy counting out the money that had been stuffed
inside the envelope.

He glances over at it.

LIAM
I think he still loves you.

She shakes her head, dismissing it.

SARAH
No. We're not in love, we never were.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah’s lying across her bed, holding onto Danny who's now wide awake and trying to play with some of his toys.

She looks down at him, keeping him in her arms, she smiles, but then starts crying.

She tries to fight it, but it’s no good.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Liam’s sitting in the chair.

Erin’s sitting in the middle of the sofa.

They look over at each other.

LIAM
So with John.

ERIN
Go on.

LIAM
What’s you take on all of this?

ERIN
What do you mean?

LIAM
You never say much, so I want to
Know what you think?

ERIN
What about you?

LIAM
I want to hate him.

ERIN
Ok, and how's that going for you?

LIAM
It's not. I can't. He did nothing wrong.

ERIN
What about what he's doing now?

LIAM
Maybe I'd be doing the very same thing as he's doing if I was him.

ERIN
Why do you say that?

LIAM
Sarah left him. She cheated on him. She had that plan to leave. To move to Canada. And she was taking Danny with her.

ERIN
But she didn't.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Erin's washing up a few cups and plates that are in the sink. She then wipes down the counter with a wet cloth.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Erin's back on the bed with Sarah and Danny, both lying at either side of him, up in their sides, looking over at each other.
Danny’s sound asleep.

SARAH
I love him so much.

Erin smiles.

ERIN
I’m sure he knows that.

SARAH
But what if I have to let him go?

ERIN
I’m sure he's always going to know that you love him no matter what happens.

INT. CAFÉ - DAY

Sarah’s sitting with John at a small table, a cup of coffee each in front of them.

JOHN
Are you going to sign?

She nods.

SARAH
Yes. I am.

JOHN
Thank you.

An awkward pause.

SARAH
Why are you thanking me?

JOHN
Because it's the right thing to do. You're always going to be in his life. But with me he's going to be given the best possible life there is.
EXT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - DAY

They're standing outside the front of her apartment.

Her front door left open Sarah hands over Danny, placing him into John's arms. She's getting emotional and starts crying.

John quickly kisses her on the lips.

JOHN
It's going to be ok.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah and Erin are lying across the bed, spooning. Sarah’s still crying.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Sarah and Erin are walking along this empty city street, both dressed for a night out.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

They're sitting up at a small table, drinking, facing each other.

SARAH
I’ve been thinking about it a lot. Trying to work it out.

ERIN
And what did you come up with?

SARAH
School is done. Health care is done. Clothes, holiday, toys, security, it's all done. He can give Danny all of that and more. I can't.

ERIN
Yeah, god. I don’t know what to say. But I guess you’re right.

SARAH
But it's not like I’ll be saying goodbye to him forever. I’ll never leave him.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY
John's sitting with Danny on the floor inside his huge spacious front room, playing with him, waving some of cuddy toys in front of his face. Smiling and laughing.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY
John's putting Danny into the baby seat in the back of his car.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY
John's standing with Sarah in her hallway, the front door still open behind him.

He hands over Danny, out of his arms and into Sarah’s.

JOHN
Have you signed it?

SARAH
No. Not yet I haven’t.

He shakes his head, angry.

JOHN
You need to do it, what the hell are you waiting for!

SARAH
Please don’t be like this in front of Danny.

He takes a moment to try and lighten up his tone.
JOHN
Where's the contract, we'll do it now.

She shakes her head.

SARAH
I don't have it on me. I wanted someone to read it for me first.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY
Sarah’s sitting on the sofa with Danny and Erin.
She has Danny still held up in her arms, playing.
She looks across at Erin, worried.

SARAH
I don’t know what he's going to do.

ERIN
Maybe he's not going to do anything?

SARAH
You should have seen him just though.

ERIN
Why?

SARAH
He's getting more and more angry with me for not signing after I said I would.

ERIN
So what can you do right now?

SARAH
Nothing.

SARAH
Then he'll wait. I know he will.
Sarah nods.

SARAH
But I feel bad for him. I’m going to call him.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Erin's lying across the bed with Danny, he's playing with a couple of his cuddle toys.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

John and Sarah are sitting up at the table, both staring down at the legal contract, Sarah’s got a pen in her hand.

Sarah takes in a slow deep breath, and eventually she signs.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NEXT

John's lying on the bed next to Erin, with Danny in his arms, he kisses him gently on his forehead, and whispers.

JOHN
Soon, ok. I’ll see you really soon.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Sarah’s sitting on her sofa. Silence.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NEXT

Sarah join Danny and Erin on her bed.

ERIN
So when he's coming for Danny?

Sarah looks up and stares at the back of his head.

SARAH
At the end of the month.
INT. CLOTHES STORE - DAY

Sarah and Erin are walking through this huge clothes store, Danny’s sitting in the pram, Sarah’s pushing it out in front of her.

Both girls are looking around for things to buy.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT

Sarah, Erin, and Danny are all sitting around a small table for dinner, Chinese takeout food spread out in front of them.

They're all eating, enjoying it, smiling at each other.

INT. HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah’s sitting on the only chair with Danny asleep in her arms.

Erin’s sitting on the floor, looking up at her.

Sarah starts crying.

SARAH
I know that I don’t have to forget. It won’t be like that, and I won’t, because I won’t be able to. I’ll always be there for him. But I hope, that this is my chance to improve on everything.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

John's carrying Danny off in his arms and over towards his car.

Sarah starts crying.

Erin puts an arms around her, she then rests her forehead against Sarah’s, reassuring.

ERIN
You'll see him again soon, it's ok.

SARAH
I know.

FADE TO BLACK
THE END