

LOVE ON CAMERA

A short film

Written by

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INT. HOUSE, FRONT ROOM - DAY

An internal CCTV camera under a flat screen television.

A COUPLE enter the house.

ANDREA (O.C.)
It should only take a couple of
days.

STEPHEN (O.C.)
You going to be okay on your own?

The couple in their 30's, smartly dressed.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
You sure you want to do this, so
soon after the funeral?

Andrea looks at family photos on the wall - her smiling
elderly parents in each others' arms.

ANDREA
Best to get it done and over with.

Andrea looks at the photos; a history of the family:

- Andrea and a sibling as kids with their parents.
- A family holiday photo.
- A Christmas meal as they raise glasses to the camera.
- Proud parents at Andrea's university graduation day.
- Her elderly Mother in a hospital bed, clearly ill but
smiling lovingly at her husband.

Andrea pulls away from the photos to sit on an armchair that
faces the television.

STEPHEN
You don't have to rush this you
know.
(beat)
Do you think he died of a broken
heart?

ANDREA
How do you mean?

STEPHEN
Passing away so soon after your
mother died.

ANDREA
It's been a year since mum died.

STEPHEN
I know. But your dad, they never
found the cause of his passing.

ANDREA
We all know what it was, his heart
simply stopped.

Stephen - about to say more, stops himself.

He looks at the CCTV camera looking back at him.

STEPHEN
That camera...

ANDREA
What about it?

STEPHEN
Why did he place it there? It
should have been wall mounted to
take in the windows and door.

ANDREA
(chuckles)
I know. But, dad was dad.

INT. HOUSE, FRONT ROOM - FLASHBACK

Andrea kneels down and moves the CCTV camera from under the
television.

JOHN, her dad, enters.

JOHN
What're you doing?

ANDREA
I'm moving it to one of the
corners, so if anyone was to...

JOHN
Leave it!

Andrea hesitates at the tone of his voice.

ANDREA
Okay. I didn't mean to upset you.

She puts the camera back.

JOHN
I'm sorry.

Andrea watches her father sit in his armchair and she looks at the empty chair next to him. He sees her looking.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I'm being an old fool, I know. I just don't want anyone sitting in your mum's chair.

ANDREA
I understand.

John looks from the chair to the CCTV camera - the lens looking directly at him.

Beat.

ANDREA (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Dad. Dad?

John looks to his daughter.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
You thinking about, mum?

JOHN
I think of your mum every day.

ANDREA
Stephen and I have that small flat above the garage. Why don't you move in?

JOHN
And leave our home? No. I can't leave your mother.

ANDREA
You'll never leave mum, she will always be with us.

JOHN
I can't abide all that crap, about being forever in our hearts.

ANDREA
Dad?

John waves his hand in dismissal.

JOHN
It's all sentimental guff! Your Mum
has never left me.

ANDREA
It's normal to feel a loved one's
presence after they've gone...

JOHN
Really? You read that on social
media, did you?

ANDREA
We've talked about dealing with
mum's passing. First there's the
denial.....

JOHN
Don't start that, 'five Stages of
grief, crap.

ANDREA
You have all those memories...

JOHN
Memories, hmmm? What if it is more
than memories?

Her concern grows as she sees him smile at the camera. She
looks from the camera to him.

ANDREA
Dad?

He turns to her.

JOHN
All I'm saying....all I'm saying,
is your mum is still with me.

INT. FRONT ROOM - PRESENT

Andrea comes out of her memories as Stephen leaves.

STEPHEN
I'll be back in the morning with
the van. Then we can make a start.

Andrea nods as he gives her a kiss goodbye.

The sound of the front door closing and a car driving off.

Andrea leans back in her dad's armchair and relaxes enough to drift off.

INT. FRONT ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The room is dark, Andrea asleep in the armchair.

Her face is suddenly illuminated by blue light from the TV screen.

The flickering light wakens her as she sleepily blinks.

Realisation dawns on her face as she looks at the screen.

ANDREA

No....

Her eyes well up and we follow as she sinks to her knees and crawls to the television.

Tears spill as her hand reaches out to caress the screen.

We see what she sees: On the screen is her MOTHER (JEAN), sat in her armchair.

Andrea quickly turns round - only to see empty chairs.

JEAN (O.C.)

(from the TV)

How long are you going to be?

JOHN (O.C.)

(from the TV)

You never did have any patience,
I'm coming.

A disbelieving Andrea slowly turns to the screen to see her dad enter the room - to sit in his armchair.

Husband and wife, lovingly hold hands as they turn to look at the television.

The tears continue from Andrea as she watches the images of her parents.

ANDREA

Now, I understand...now I
understand...

The tears and the smile on her face never stop.

FADE TO BLACK.

