Saving Amy Ryan

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. CAR PARK - LATE AFTERNOON

It is starting to get dark and raining heavily, there is no movement, no people to be seen.

Lines of cars fill the vast space and water bounces from windscreens and runs down to join the river of rainwater forming on the ground. The sound of thousands of droplets hitting metal is the only sound we can hear.

There is a black sedan parked in the middle of a row and through the windscreen a woman can be seen sitting still in the passenger seat.

INT. CAR

Inside the car now the radio is on, a familiar 60's hit plays quietly barely audible over the sound of the rain pounding the car roof.

Scattered on the drivers seat lay some photographs.

The woman in the passenger seat has her eyes closed and is bleeding from the side of her head, her clothes and face are blood splattered.

A look at the back seat reveals the bloody mess caused by a bullet exiting the back of her head taking fragments of skull and brains with it.

Laying next to her is a revolver.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

JERRY RYAN (35) is cooking breakfast, badly.

The worktop is covered in pans, eggshells and general kitchen mess.

A TV is on somewhere nearby and the sounds of a morning news show compete with the spitting frying pan in front of him.

JERRY

Go and and get mommy hun, tell her breakfast is ready.

Sitting at a dining table watching the TV is AMY RYAN (8), she turns her head behind her and towards the door.

AMY

MOMMY, BREAKFAST IS READY!

JERRY

I said go and get Mommy, I could have shouted her myself.

AMY

Daaaad, I am trying to watch the TV.

Jerry takes a look at Amy and raises his eyebrows,

Amy sees the look and reluctantly gets up and walks out of the kitchen door.

INT. STUDY

Amy wanders into what appears to be a home office.

With her back to us, sitting at a desk in front of a laptop is KATE RYAN (34).

AMY

Mommy, daddy said to come get you. Breakfast is ready.

Kate turns to face Amy behind her and it is revealed that she is the same woman that we saw in the car earlier.

KATE

Be honest, does daddy's breakfast look nice?

Amy does not answer but shakes her head from side to side, giggling.

AMY

Daddy still can't make eggs, you should see the mess he is making of the kitchen.

KATE

Am just coming, You should go and help him before he burns another pan.

Amy turns and leaves the room

AMY (O.S)

Daddy Daddy, Mommy said i need to help you with the eggs.

Kate sits for a moment staring at the space that Amy has just left, she looks like she is someplace else, a single tear forms in the corner of one eye.

She quickly regains composure, dabbing the tear away and gets to her feet.

INT. KITCHEN

They are sitting eating breakfast, no-one is talking, Jerry is reading a newspaper while Amy gazes at the TV.

Kate seems distant and toys with her food as she watches Jerry eat. Over Jerry's shoulder the TV is visible.

TV REPORTER

...already keen to play down links to the discovery of 31 year old Jenna Gaines in the same area on Tuesday. Stay tuned for more as and when we get it. James, what the weather going to do today?

The studio cut to JAMES THE WEATHERMAN who is standing on a roof somewhere above the city. $\,$

JAMES THE WEATHERMAN
Well Julian, if you are planning to
go out later today i would take an
umbrella with you. There is low
pressure pushing in from the east
and we are expecting quite a storm
over the city by late afternoon.
Not a great weekend for going
outside i am afraid but good news
for tomorrow as things are
looking--

The screen disappears into a white dot as Jerry puts down the remote control.

JERRY

Come on Amy I need to run, I'm dropping you off at grandma's on my way. Go and get ready please hun?

Amy gets down from her chair and heads for the door.

KATE

I thought you weren't going in today?

Jerry is drinking coffee and still has his head down reading the paper in his hands.

JERRY

I got a call last night about the East side warehouse some guy wants to see--

KATE

Not today Jerry please.

JERRY

This could be a big deal for me.

KATE

You said we could talk--

JERRY

And we will. Look it wont take long and we can meet as soon as I am finished up.

KATE

Mum has agreed to take Amy today. This is important, we need to have this talk today.

JERRY

And we will, promise. I will call you as soon as I am finished and we can go for lunch or something.

Kate slams her coffee cup on the table.

KATE

Jerry this is important. I wish you would stop pretending everything is OK. It's not and the more you pretend otherwise the worse this is gonna get.

Jerry gets to his feet and starts to head for the door but before he goes through it though he turns to face Kate.

JERRY

Not in front of Amy. I know this is important. Do you imagine I am not taking this seriously? I will call you later and we will talk then. I have got to go.

Jerry leaves the kitchen and Kate sits there alone looking into space.

She picks up her cellphone and dials a number.

The faint sound of ringing and then the sound of a mans answer phone message.

Kate cancels the call without leaving a message, Kate stares at the phone sitting in front of her.

KATE (TO HERSELF)

Where are you?

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET

A black sedan pulls over to the side of the street and Amy jumps out running to her Grandmother who is watching from the front door.

A second car drives by and pulls over further up the street.

Jerry has wound down his window and shouts to Amy.

JERRY

I will pick you up this afternoon and if you're good we will go and get a movie.

AMY

Spiderman, Spiderman.

JERRY

Sure why not? Its been what, two weeks since we saw it last?

Amy turns and pokes her tongue out at Jerry and giggles, she runs straight past her grandmother and into the front door. JOAN BELSNER (66) walks over to the car and speaks to Jerry through the open window.

JOAN

You not coming in for a minute?

Jerry points to his watch.

JERRY

Running late as it is. Will be back around four - OK?

JOAN

I'm not going anywhere. She can stay as long as she needs to.

JERRY

Thanks Joan we do appreciate it.

JOAN

My pleasure, anyway you still need to come and fix my back fence at some point You promised.

JERRY

I know, I will see if I have got time tomorrow.

JOAN

I everything alright with Kate this week? She never seemed herself on the phone yesterday.

JERRY

No worse that usual. She has got a lot on her mind with work I guess but thats nothing new.

JOAN

She did say you two were gonna try and sort some things out this weekend.

Jerry pulls a face as if to say he is bored of this conversation.

JOAN

Look I know you think this is none of my business but I do care about you all and the fights are starting to affect Amy. You think she does not hear you but she does, she tells me.

JERRY

It's just been a difficult few months. We are working on it I promise.

JOAN

Please, for Amy's sake.

JERRY

I will see you later OK?

Jerry smiles as he winds up the window and Joan watches the car disappear up the street.

INT. WAREHOUSE - LATE MORNING

The man is already at the warehouse entrance when Jerry arrives.

VINCENT ALLEN early 60's, well kept and dressed sharply in an expensive looking suit and carrying a leather briefcase. With him is DAVID (mid 30's) a younger stockier man dressed in a black suit.

JERRY

Sorry I'm late, had to drop my girl off. Hope you have not been waiting too long?

VINCENT

Just arrived myself.

Jerry offers his hand to Vincent and he smiles broadly as he shakes Jerry's hand.

VINCENT

Vincent Allen, you must be Jerry Ryan I presume?

JERRY

Yeh, pleased to meet you.

VINCENT

This is David my assistant, he is going to tag along if you do not mind?

David gives Jerry a smile, Jerry nods at him.

JERRY

Not at all. Come on then lets have a look inside.

Jerry brings a large set of keys from his coat and heads towards the large wooden door.

INT. WAREHOUSE

The large open building is mainly empty bar a few crates dotted around the floor. Skylights allow streams of light to illuminate the vast space.

The three men are walking through the building.

VINCENT

This is all very nice Mr Ryan--

JERRY

Jerry, please call me Jerry.

VINCENT

Sorry, of course, Jerry. I was just going to say that this is a very nice place but not exactly what I was looking for.

Jerry looks a little deflated.

JERRY

I'm sorry have I misunderstood something here? This place is exactly what you were looking for.

VINCENT

Is there somewhere we can sit down and talk?

Jerry thinks for a moment and points to a door at the far end of the building.

JERRY

There is an office through that door, we can go there if you want?

VINCENT

Lead the way.

The three of them walk towards the door their footsteps echo throughout the building.

Vincent turns to David and speaks to him quietly.

VINCENT

David, wait out here please.

Jerry opens the door and ushers Vincent into the office.

INT. OFFICE

JERRY

Please, take a seat.

The office is small and each wall is stacked high with boxes and piles of paper making it feel even smaller than it is.

At one end is a large picture window overlooking the docks and in the middle sits a large wooden table with four chairs.

Vincent sits down with his back to the window and Jerry takes a seat across from him.

VINCENT

Jerry I lied to you. I am not looking to invest in this property, or any property as a matter of fact. I needed to talk with you and this is the only way I could think of getting in front you so quickly and in private.

Jerry looks mystified, even a little worried. Vincent pulls himself a little close to the table, next to him David just sits and watches.

JERRY

Now I am confused.

VINCENT

I am sure we are both busy men and there is lots to do so if you permit I will cut to the chase.

(beat)

I am here about Your wife.

JERRY

Is this some kind of joke?

VINCENT

I wish it was but no I do not joke.

Jerry just sits in silence watching Vincent and waiting for more.

VINCENT

Did you know your wife is having an affair?

JERRY

What the hell has this got to do with you?

VINCENT

I take it from your reaction that you--

JERRY

I would like you to leave now. Please, this conversation is over.

Jerry stands up and begins to walk over to the door.

VINCENT

So you do know? How interesting. Do you know it is still going on? The affair i mean. Did you think it has stopped?

Jerry turns to face the table, he is visibly getting angry and frustrated with the questions he is being asked.

JERRY

I asked you to leave Mr Allen, I mean it. I would like you and your friend to please leave now and keep your nose out of my business. I want you both out of here right now or I call the police.

Jerry takes out his cellphone and holds it up for Vincent to see.

VINCENT

I wouldn't advise that.

JERRY

And why the hell not?

VINCENT

(beat)

Because I have your daughter.

Jerry stands still for a moment staring at Vincent as if trying to comprehend what has just been told to him.

JERRY

Thats it I am calling the police you sick bastard.

VINCENT

Now now Mr Ryan--

JERRY

I SAID GET OUT!

Jerry pulls open the door and leaves the office while pushing buttons on his cellphone.

Immediately he is tackled by David and forced to the ground. Both lay on the floor struggling with each other. Quickly getting up to his feet Jerry manages to land a kick to David's stomach, he falls to the floor with a thud and lets out a loud groan.

Even though doubled in pain and on the floor David spins his body around and kicks out at Jerry. The force of the kick knocks Jerry back to the floor.

From Jerry's point of view we look up to see Vincent towering above his head.

The small mans frame looks huge above us. He lift's his black size nine and we watch it come down hard. Everything goes black.

EXT. DOCKSIDE

Looking through the office window from the outside we see that Jerry is sitting back at the table and is holding some tissues to his bloodied face.

David stands behind him holding a gun, blocking the door way ready to cut short any escape attempt.

Vincent is back at his seat with his back to the window.

INT. OFFICE

VINCENT

I am sorry about the face Mr Ryan, you left me with no choice. I really need you to understand that cooperating with me is your best bet right now.

JERRY

And my daughter?

VINCENT

I promise that no harm has come to her, she is perfectly safe and there is no need for anything to happen to happen to her. Of course though that is largely up to you.

JERRY

And that means?

VINCENT

Our children are the most perfect gift we could ever have are they not? Our true reason for being, our only chance for immortality. To watch your children grow up is truly the best part about being alive. Some would say it becomes their only reason to remain alive. I never really understood that last part. Like you I worked long hours and left no time for family, the usual cliche of a bad father. But i changed--

JERRY

Changed into a freak maybe.

Vincent chuckles at this comment and reaches into his pocket to bring out a packet of cigarettes. He takes one out and lights it.

Jerry declines an offer of one with a shake of his head, Vincent leaves the pack on the table and continues.

VINCENT

When my wife passed away and I had to raise our daughter by myself I knew then what an absolute privilege it was to have this chance. Walking down the aisle to give her away was the proudest and greatest achievement of my life Mr Ryan.

JERRY

Do you really think I care? I don't believe you have my daughter. I believe you may have gone mad but I can't believe you think i give a shit about any of this.

VINCENT

I am very resourceful Mr Ryan. My men have been watching your house all morning waiting for the right opportunity.

JERRY

How do I know you are telling me the truth.

VINCENT

I had your daughter picked up from your Mother-in-laws house as soon as you dropped her off. Your wives mother put up a bit of a fight, feisty one that. She is with Amy, keeping her company. They are both safe I assure you. But it is my own daughter I would like to continue discussing if you don't mind.

Jerry stands up aggressively.

JERRY

Why you fuc--

From behind David holds his gun to the side of Jerry's head and forces him back to his chair.

VINCENT

You are not helping matters and time is of the essence. Do you want your daughter to be safe?

JERRY

(beat)

Of course I do.

VINCENT

My own daughter Jennifer was a wonderful child and very beautiful. I was the happiest man in the world at her wedding.

Vincent pulls up his briefcase onto the table, opening it he produces are a large photograph, it is a shot of a happy couple on their wedding day.

VINCENT

This is Jennifer and her husband Paul on their wedding day. See how happy she looks her eyes full of hope.

JERRY

I don't understand what this has got to do with me?

VINCENT

Two nights ago My daughter Jennifer took her own life.

Jerry looks up and stared into Vincents eyes.

Vincent takes a deep drag of his cigarette and stubs it out on the table in front of him.

VINCENT

That piece of shit she married came home from work and informed her he was leaving her for someone else. That he no longer loved her. She was carrying his child, she was distraught, devastated. A friend she had called rushed over to find her in the bath. She had taken a handful of painkillers and slashed her wrists.

Vincent is visibly angry and upset, Jerry looks at him in horror and with more than a little compassion in his face.

JERRY

I am truly very sorry for your loss. I cannot even begin to imagine what you have been through this past few days. But I can't see how this has nothing to do with me or my family.

VINCENT

Look at the picture again Mr Ryan does he look familiar?

Jerry takes another look, the photograph is shaking visibly in his hands.

JERRY

No, can't say he is. Should he be?

VINCENT

I thought maybe you would. He worked with your wife you know.

Jerry looks again, there is nothing in his eyes, then a glimmer of recognition. He puts the photograph down and looking up his eyes meet Vincent's.

JERRY

Oh god.

Vincent pulls out another photograph and hands it to Jerry. While Jerry looks at it Vincent lights up another cigarette and blows a cloud of smoke into the air above him.

VINCENT

This is a picture of how he looked yesterday after I left him. Looks like I may have done you a favor too. I must admit killing him was one of the most difficult things I have ever had to do but strangely also the easiest. In some ways the therapy I needed, It made me feel in control again. He was the first and only person I have ever killed Jerry and you know what?

JERRY

What?

VINCENT

I think I can do it again. It is amazing the rush of power one feels when taking a life.

JERRY

Does kidnapping an eight year old girl make you feel powerful then?

VINCENT

Well that is where you come in. I want to give you the opportunity to feel how I felt.

JERRY

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

VINCENT

What I mean Mr Ryan is that you need to make a choice. I am afraid it is all down to you now.

JERRY

I don't understand.

VINCENT

I think you do Mr Ryan. You need to decide how this is going to end. Someone is going to die today and i would like you and your wife to decide who.

JERRY

Oh, so let me get this straight, you kidnap my daughter and are asking me to what? Choose between (MORE)

JERRY (cont'd)

her and my wife? You are crazier than I thought.

Vincent gets to his feet and wanders over to the large window. With his back turned to Jerry he watches a boat in the river outside.

VINCENT

Your wife started this Mr Ryan. Not happy with one husband she needed another so she took my daughter's. I make her just as responsible for my daughters death as that low life.

JERRY

Your daughter killed herself.

VINCENT

My Daughter was murdered by her husband and your wife.

JERRY

Look it makes no difference, I am not going to kill my wife. Your plan is absurd.

Vincent turns to face David.

VINCENT

Make the call.

David reaches into his pocket for a cellphone and dials a number. Somebody answers and he passes the phone to Jerry.

JERRY

Hello, who is this?

AMY (O.S)

Daddy, is that you?.

JERRY

Don't worry baby, Daddy is coming to get you real soon.

AMY (O.S)

Hurry Daddy, please, I'm scared.

JERRY

I'm coming baby, I'm coming.

Jerry is starting to cry as Vincent takes the phone from his hands and hangs up the call.

JERRY

You bastard, I swear to god.

Jerry's voice trails away and he stares out of the window looking as though his thoughts are someplace else.

VINCENT

Have you asked yourself the questions yet?

JERRY

I'm sorry?

VINCENT

Your wife has been planning to leave you, She was moving away. I got that much from the scumbag before I took his life. Was she planning to take Amy with her?

Hearing this question Jerry lifts his head as if to consider this question.

JERRY

She said it was over.

MR ALLEN

Was she going to take your daughter away from you?

JERRY

It was over, she said it was over.

Jerry's words fade into nothing, he is staring intently at the photograph in his hands. Vincent stubs his cigarette out next to the other butt on the table.

VINCENT

I am an old man Mr Ryan, I have nothing left to live for. I am not frightened anymore. Nothing nor nobody can hurt me more than i hurt now. You however have everything to live for. You get to make a choice that I was never given.

JERRY

You really think i have a choice in this?

VINCENT

Your daughter or your wife. I am not messing about here. I am (MORE)

VINCENT (cont'd) serious and you better start believing me. Do you want your

daughter to live Mr Ryan?

Everything is silent, Jerry is staring at the photograph.

JERRY

What do I do?

VINCENT

Go pick up your wife and take her to the Rexy Cinema on Park road. Go and park somewhere away from the cinema on the far side of the car park.

JERRY

And what? Just wait?

VINCENT

No, you are to tell your wife everything I have told you today. Take my briefcase and show her the photographs if you need. Tell her the choice that is available. Make sure she understands everything and especially the consequences of doing nothing.

JERRY

And then what do we do?

VINCENT

I guess that is up to you.

JERRY

How?

VINCENT

There is a gun in the briefcase.

JERRY

God this is so fucked up. How the hell can you expect anyone to make a decision like this?. This is nuts, I can't do this, no, I can't do this.

VINCENT

That is your decision. All i am doing is making you aware of the consequences of that decision.

Jerry looks away, he stares out of the window for a moment swallowing his tears. He turns back to Vincent.

JERRY

And Amy? where will she be?

VINCENT

She will be close, she will be safe.

JERRY

What if I just call the police as soon as I walk out of here?

VINCENT

You already know the answer to that. It does not matter to me one or way another, like I said it is your choice, either way I get what I want. Calling the police would be making a choice, although if you don't mind me saying it would be the cowards choice.

Jerry still sitting at the table puts down the photograph and gets to his feet. David does not stop him this time.

JERRY

You lay a finger on her I swear to God I will hunt you down.

INT. CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

Jerry and Kate sit in the car. They both stare out into the rain that is now so heavy that the music from the radio is barely heard over the sound of it.

The bleeding has stopped flowing from the cuts to Jerry's face but his lips and nose are still swollen and bruised.

Kate has been crying, her arms folded over her chest.

Jerry just sits there with the open briefcase in his lap, the photographs are lying between them.

KATE

We should be calling the police, they could be here in ten minutes. They could have the whole place surrounded. If they are here we will get them. **JERRY**

It's an option, It is all I have been thinking about since I left him.

KATE

Well lets do it then.

JERRY

You didn't see him Kate, he is mad. Doesn't seem to care about getting caught.

KATE

But we are talking about Amy and my mum here.

JERRY

And I really believe he will kill them if he needs to.

KATE

So we do what? Just sit here wait for him to call? What does he want? Money? Jesus Jerry we can't just sit here and wait.

Kate bends over double with her head in her lap and sobs softly, Jerry looks at her for a moment.

JERRY

When were you going to tell me?

KATE

Jerry not now.

JERRY

Yes now Kate, I need to understand. When were you going to tell me?

KATE

We should be thinking about my mom and Amy. We can do this later.

JERRY

But that's the whole point ain't it? It is because of you and him that we are in this mess.

Jerry punches the steering wheel in front of him.

JERRY

When were you going to tell me?

KATE

I have been trying, what do you think today was all about?

JERRY

Amy?

KATE

She was gonna come with me.

JERRY

Where?

Kate still sobs.

KATE

We are not getting into this now, we need to think about what we are gonna do. We need to think about how we are gonna get them back.

They sit in silence for a moment, Jerry turns to Kate again.

JERRY

He has already given us a way out.

KATE

What are you talking about?

JERRY

We are not waiting here for anyone Kate, there is no phone call and there is no ransom.

KATE

Jerry, you are scaring me now. What in gods name are you talking about? you said we were waiting for them.

JERRY

He wants me to make a choice.

KATE

what choice? what does he want?

Jerry turns to Kate and looking into her eyes he tells her.

JERRY

He will let them go in exchange for your life.

KATE

What?

JERRY

He blames you for his daughters death, he wants you to die. That is what all this is about. If you do not die today then Amy will.

Silence as they both look at each other, Kate is terrified and still crying.

Jerry takes the gun from the briefcase and tosses the empty case into the back of the car.

He stares at the gun in front of him.

JERRY

He gave me this.

Kate looks at the gun.

KATE

This is really happening isn't it?

(Beat)

God, what have I done?

Suddenly Jerry leans across and pushes the gun against the side of Kate's head.

Kate is hysterical and is trying to fight him off.

Jerry's hand is shaking, his eyes are closed, his finger curls around the trigger.

JERRY

I am so sorry Kate, I am so--

KATE

No, please god no.

Kate is still struggling and trying to push the gun away from her head.

JERRY

There is no choice, I can't lose Amy.

Jerry grabs a handful of Kate's hair and pushes her head back against the seat.

His hand is still shaking and his fingers are still curled around the trigger.

Kate is screaming.

KATE

JERRY NO PLEASE!

Kneeling above her now he pushes the gun harder into Kate's head. Kate's eyes are now tightly closed.

KATE

I AM SO SORRY!

Jerry pulls the gun back from Kate's head and places it on the dashboard in front of him. Kate opens her eyes and looks at him.

With a look of defeat he opens the car door, Kate doesn't say a word as Jerry climbs out of he car.

EXT. CAR PARK

Moving towards the rear of the car he doubles over and vomits on the floor. Wiping his mouth with the sleeve of his jacket he goes back to the drivers door and takes one last look at Kate.

JERRY

I love you.

Closing the door behind him he zips his jacket up to the neck and starts walking towards the cinema in the distance. The roar of the rain is everywhere, still no other sounds, still no other people.

Jerry flinches when he hears the gunshot but doesn't look back, he pauses for a second.

His tears are falling heavier now mixing with the rain running down his face as he continues walking through the car park and into the distance.

FADE OUT: