



Say Goodbye
a screenplay by
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Sept 2021 OWC

EXT. LOVE'S HOUSE - DAY

A house between homes. Picture perfect middle class.

SARAH LOVE(6), in an oversize gardening hat and gloves, cuts flowers with safety scissors from around the yard.

INT. LOVE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah replaces wilted flowers on a dresser with the freshly picked blooms.

MOM (O.S.)
They're perfect. You got a green thumb, kiddo.

Sarah looks at her thumbs with curiosity.

MOM(30s) isn't doing well as she's in bed surrounded by medical supplies. The headscarf and dark circles under the eyes indicate a terrible disease ravages her body.

Sarah crawls on the bed next to Mom.

SARAH
What happens when you die?

Mom thinks for a moment before she decides to deflect.

MOM
Hey. Let's watch a movie.

INT. LOVE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Mom and Sarah veg out in front of the television. Sarah eats from a bowl of popcorn.

SARAH
Is dying a good thing? Grams told --

Mom tries to evade the query.

MOM
-- You want dad to bring you something else to drink?

SARAH
Grams told dad, you're going to paradise. That when you get there, you won't be sick anymore.
(then)
Me and daddy is coming with you.
Right?

Mom positions herself on the side of the bed. Ever so carefully, she makes her way to the recliner.

She motions for Sarah to sit with her. Sarah slides off the bed and up onto Mom's lap.

INT. LOVE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Mom slowly rocks Sarah lost in thought. Sarah notices something's wrong.

SARAH

Did I say something to make you sad?

MOM

No sweetheart. I was just thinking how we used to rock when you were a baby.

SARAH

Did I cry a lot?

MOM

Sometimes. Mostly because you were hungry.

SARAH

I do get sad when I don't have any Lucky Charms.

(then)

But I don't cry.

Mom chuckles and kisses Sarah on the head. She still searches how to tell her.

INT. LOVE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Sarah hops down as Mom repositions herself in the recliner.

MOM

One day... Mommy won't be in this house with you and daddy.

SARAH

So, you are leaving us?

MOM

Honey, I'll never leave you. It's impossible for me to leave you.

SARAH

It is.

Mom sweeps Sarah's hair behind her ears. She grabs a mirror off the nightstand.

MOM
Do you know why?

Sarah shakes her head no.

Mom gets cheek to cheek with Sarah. She holds up the mirror where both of their faces are in the reflection.

MOM (CONT'D)
I had to give you a piece of me so
you could be born.

SARAH
Whaaaatt?

MOM
See how we have the same nose?

Mom touches Sarah's nose and then her nose.

MOM (CONT'D)
The same eyes.

Mom points to the eyes.

SARAH
Wow...We should'a had this discussion
when I was five.

Sarah grabs Mom by the face.

SARAH (CONT'D)
So I don't have to say goodbye to
you?

MOM
Not if you don't want to,
sweetheart... But one day, if you
decide to say goodbye. It's okay to
do that too... Because no matter
what, I will always be a part of
you.

SARAH
I don't want to... I'll never say
it. I promise, mommy.

Sarah embraces her Mom tight.

MOM
It's okay. I believe you, sweetie...I
believe you.

Mom, on the verge of a breakdown, wipes her eyes.

EXT. LOVE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah snips flowers in the yard.

She bouquets the flowers with her hands. Satisfied, Sarah takes off toward the house.

INT. LOVE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

DAD(30s) stares at an empty bed from the recliner. He notices -- Sarah switches out the flowers on the dresser.

SARAH
Do you like them, daddy?

DAD
They're perfect.

She notices Dad's sad demeanor. He tries to hide it.

INT. LOVE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Sarah rummages through some photos on the nightstand as Dad watches from the recliner.

DAD
Whatcha looking for, kiddo?

She grabs a photo and crawls up onto his lap.

SARAH
Did mommy show you?

DAD
Show me what, honey?

Sarah holds the photo up to her face. She points to Mom's nose, then her nose. Mom's eyes, her eyes.

SARAH
Don't be sad. Okay?

Dad smiles and pulls Sarah in close.

He stares out the window. A single tear flows down his cheek. Sarah's tiny hand comes up and wipes it away.

Dad kisses the top of her hand. Sarah snuggles into him and closes her eyes.

INSERT: The photograph in Sarah's hands. A happy memory that will carry Sarah for the rest of her life.

FADE OUT: