

THE WEEKEND BREAK

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FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - MORNING

DAN JOHNSON, early 30's, handsome, smartly dressed, shuffles around in the boot of a large black SUV parked on the grass park.

DAN

I'll be over in a second, honey.

Not so far away, MARY JOHNSON, late 20's, very pretty blonde, sits on a colorful rug neatly set out under a large tree. She looks out into the distance, smiles to herself.

A young girl, CHLOE JOHNSON, aged 4, looks just like her mother, runs around aimlessly between the many trees. She stumbles over, falls to the ground. She looks over at Mary and giggles.

Mary looks on, smiles at Chloe. Dan appears behind her, a basket in his hand. He kisses Mary on the head, she turns, looks at him.

MARY

It's beautiful, isn't it?

They both look into the distance at the unspoiled landscape. The sun sets above the hills in the distance. Birds fly above the many trees. A lone rabbit runs from behind one tree to another not too far away from the watchful eye of Chloe.

DAN

Not nearly as beautiful as someone
I know.

Mary smiles. He leans in, kisses her again, this time on the lips. They enjoy the moment.

Dan sits the basket down on the rug, opens it. Inside, is a wide variety of fruits. Pears, apples, bananas, oranges etc.

DAN (CONT'D)

I know how much you love your
fruits.

She giggles, picks up an apple, takes a bite.

Dan watches her, he strokes her hair as she takes another bite. Just when they look like the perfect couple...

A mobile phone rings, interrupts the moment. Dan takes his phone from his pocket, looks at the screen.

DAN (CONT'D)
I have to take this.

Mary sighs.

MARY
You said no phones. No
interruptions.

DAN
I did, and I stand by that. But
this is very, very important,
honey.

Mary stares at him, far from convinced.

DAN (CONT'D)
This will be the first and last. I
promise.

A beat of silence. Mary nods her head. Dan takes the call.

DAN (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hello...yeah, everything's fine,
better than expected actually.

Dan walks away with the phone held to his ear, Mary watches
him go, her smile now gone.

CHLOE (O.S.)
Mommy, Mommy, look!

Mary turns to Chloe, who holds a worm out in front of her
with muddy hands.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
It's a worm, Mommy!

Mary puts on a brave face, smiles at Chloe.

Chloe drops the worm, runs over to Mary.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Where's Daddy gone?

Mary looks behind her. Dan is still on the phone in the
distance, smiles, lets out a laugh. Mary looks on.

MARY
Daddy is just talking to someone
from work, that's all.

Chloe looks at him in the distance.

CHLOE

Are you and Daddy going to fight
again?

MARY

(shocked)

What? No, sweetie. Daddy just has a
busy job. When he comes back, we'll
all do something together, okay?

Chloe nods her head but doesn't look convinced. She runs off towards the tree where she was previously at.

MARY (CONT'D)

Don't run too far!

Mary cracks a small smile, lies down on her back. She looks up at the blue sky, not a cloud in sight. A flock of birds fly overhead.

DAN (O.S.)

That's great. Thanks a lot. It's
much appreciated. Bye now.

Dan puts his phone away, sits down on the rug next to Mary. There's an awkward beat of silence.

MARY

Who was that?

DAN

Nobody special, just someone from
work.

MARY

Special enough to spoil our weekend
break. You said no phones.

Dan ignores her, reaches into the basket and pulls out an orange. He starts to peel it. Mary watches his hand as he does so.

MARY (CONT'D)

Where's your ring?

DAN

My what?

MARY

Your wedding ring. Where is it?

Dan looks at his hand. His wedding ring is missing.

DAN

It must be in the car.

MARY

I suppose you have a good excuse as
to why it's not on your finger
where it belongs?

Dan bites his lip, tries not to shout.

DAN

Don't do this, not here.

MARY

(shouts)

Why? What are you hiding?

Dan sighs. Mary looks at Chloe, who is no longer playing with worms, she's watching them argue in the distance.

Mary makes eye contact with her. Chloe runs and hides behind a nearby tree, obviously scared.

Mary composes herself. Dan tries to reason with her.

DAN

Look, I'm sorry. It's an innocent
mistake. You know it is a size too
big, it's probably slipped off. I'm
sure it's lying around somewhere.

Mary doesn't answer him. Dan tries to stroke her hair but she backs off.

DAN (CONT'D)

You know what? I've left the
sandwiches in the car.

Dan gets up, walks away towards the SUV at the other end of the park.

Chloe sticks her head out from behind the tree.

MARY

Over here, sweetie.

Mary motions for Chloe to run towards her. She does so, as fast as she can, into Mary's arms.

MARY (CONT'D)

It's okay, baby, it's okay.

CHLOE

I don't like it when he gets mad,
Mommy.

Mary holds Chloe tight, she has tears in her eyes.

MARY

Oh, don't cry! Everything's fine.
We're just talking, that's all.

CHLOE

Is Daddy mad with me again?

MARY

No! It's just grown-up stuff,
sweetie.

Chloe lowers her head, she knows something's up.

Mary lifts a small fancy blue teddy bear from her bag behind her. She holds it in front of Chloe.

MARY (CONT'D)

Why don't you play with Broxi Bear?

Mary moves the teddy bear around in front of Chloe's face. She doesn't look interested, but it doesn't stop Mary trying.

DAN (O.S.)

Look what I found, honey.

Dan holds up his hand, his wedding ring now on his finger. Mary doesn't even turn, she continues to play with the teddy bear in front of Chloe, blanking him completely.

MARY

I don't want to talk about it.

She continues to play around with the teddy bear but Chloe just stares at Dan, tears in her eyes.

Dan sighs, holds his head in his hands.

DAN

Mary...never mind.

Dan throws down a six pack of sandwiches, storms away. Mary stays silent, doesn't even turn to look at him.

Dan walks up to a tree, pulls out his mobile phone. He dials a number, holds the phone to his ear.

DAN (CONT'D)

Hello, can you put me through to
Doctor Martin, please?

Dan looks out from behind the tree back towards Mary and Chloe. Mary continues to play with the teddy bear and talk, but she's talking to herself. Chloe's not there!

DAN (CONT'D)

(into phone, worried)

Can you please tell him to call me
back as soon as possible. Tell him
everything's not okay, her
treatment's not working. She needs
help.

He puts his phone away, walks back towards Mary, who continues to play with the teddy bear.

DAN (CONT'D)

Honey, can I have a word?

Mary ignores him.

DAN (CONT'D)

Mary, please. Listen to me.

More silence from Mary. She doesn't even acknowledge him.

Dan walks towards her slowly. He bends down next to her, reaches for the teddy bear. She snaps, slaps him across the face.

Dan backs off, stunned. He holds his face, red with the force of the slap.

DAN (CONT'D)

Mary! What...

Mary turns away, grabs the teddy bear and looks to where Chloe sits in her imagination. She smiles, waves the teddy bear in front of her.

MARY

Can't you see I'm spending time
with my daughter? You should try it
sometime.

Dan approaches her slowly again.

DAN

Honey, you need help. Come with me.
We'll get through this together.

Mary growls at him.

MARY

We're not going anywhere. I promised Chloe a quiet weekend away from home.

DAN

We just need to see someone. Chloe can come too.

MARY

(shouts)

Chloe doesn't want to go with you!

DAN

(shouts)

Chloe doesn't exist!

Mary looks at him in shock. She looks to her side. Chloe looks back at her but says nothing.

MARY

W-Why would you say something like that? She's right...there.

Mary points to the tree where she can see Chloe. Dan looks, but there's nothing there. No Chloe.

DAN

Mary, you had a miscarriage, four years ago. Do you remember? You don't have a daughter. We don't have a daughter. We lost her.

Mary breaks out into tears.

MARY

She's not lost...she's...she's here...

Mary looks in the direction of Chloe. Chloe stares back, tears in her eyes.

DAN

She's not real, Mary.

Mary again looks at Chloe, who starts to fade into thin air.

CHLOE

Don't let me go, mommy!

Mary's cries. She doesn't know what to believe.

DAN

You've got to let her go, Mary.
You're sick. I can get you the help
you need. The best treatment
available.

MARY

No...no...

Mary looks at Chloe again. More of her body has faded away.

DAN

Chloe is all in your imagination.
She was the little girl you didn't
have. The little girl you couldn't
have.

Mary doesn't take her eyes off Chloe, who's legs have now
completely faded away.

DAN (CONT'D)

We can get through this. Both of
us.

Mary continues to cry, her face red with tears.

DAN (CONT'D)

Are you with me?

Dan extends his hand. Mary nods her head, grabs his had. He
pulls her towards him. She rests her head on his shoulder.

A phone rings. Dan pulls out his phone, looks at the Caller
I.D. It says; DR MARTIN. He kisses Mary on the head.

DAN (CONT'D)

I've got to take this, baby. I'll
be right back, okay?

Mary nods her head. Dan walks away with the phone held to his
ear.

CHLOE (O.S.)

Mommy!

Mary looks towards Chloe. She completely fades away into thin
air. She wipes the tears away from her bloodshot eyes.

Dan stands at a tree with the phone held to his ear.

DAN

(into phone)

She was fine when we got here, or
at least I thought she was.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

She can still see this girl, this
Chloe. She thinks it's our
daughter.

DR. MARTIN (O.S.)

I can arrange a session for Monday
if that's okay.

DAN

Good. Monday's good.

DR. MARTIN (O.S.)

In the meantime, make sure she
doesn't do anything stupid. Her
mind is fragile, tread carefully.

DAN

I will, Doc. Thanks for your time.

DR. MARTIN (O.S.)

No problem--

DAN

Hey, can I ask why she keeps seeing
this girl? What's your take on
that?

DR. MARTIN

I would need to have a few more
sessions to find out for certain
but it does seem to me that there's
something in her past that she
feels guilty about.

Mary appears at the tree, right behind Dan.

DAN

The miscarriage wasn't her fault.
These things happen.

MARY

It wasn't a miscarriage.

Dan drops the phone, surprised by Mary's appearance and the
tone of her almost emotionless voice.

DAN

W-What?

MARY

Four years ago. I didn't have a
miscarriage. It was an abortion.

Dan looks completely stunned. He stands, unable to respond. Mary looks him in the eye, a cold stare.

MARY (CONT'D)

We weren't ready. We had only been going out for three months.

DAN

Why...why didn't you tell me?

MARY

You were too busy with your job to even care about what I was going through. The choices I had to make.

Dan turns away, open mouthed, not knowing what to make of the whole situation.

MARY (CONT'D)

I was twelve weeks pregnant before I could make that choice. I killed our baby. I killed Chloe.

Dan tries to compose himself, doesn't know how to respond.

MARY (CONT'D)

I've let go. Chloe's gone now.

Dan knells down, unable to stand, totally shocked by this revelation. Mary walks back towards the picnic rug under the tree.

Mary sits down, picks up an apple from the basket, takes a bite from it.

MARY (CONT'D)

Do you want an apple?

FADE OUT:

