

Things Left For Tomorrow

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - DAY - EST.

A still house.

INT. KITCHEN

Dishes piled high in the sink. An open beer sitting on the counter top. Its German label peeling slightly.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

JAMIE (31), tired and sad, stares at the empty room.

A YOUNGER JAMIE runs by. The ghost of him. The ghost of his FATHER and MOTHER sit on the couch watching him.

His Father kisses his Mother's neck.

Younger Ghost Jamie spills grape juice on the rug.

GHOST MOTHER

Oh, Jamie.

GHOST FATHER

That's why we bought the rug,
Shirley.

GHOST JAMIE

I'm sorry.

The Ghosts fade away.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

GHOST MOTHER(O.S.)

Jamie, I know, I know.

Jamie walks into the kitchen. His Ghost Mother is talking on the phone to him.

GHOST MOTHER

You know he's sorry, he wants to
see you.

GHOST JAMIE(O.S.)

Then why won't he speak to me?

(CONTINUED)

GHOST MOTHER

He thought you'd work with him.

GHOST JAMIE(O.S.)

On the farm?

GHOST MOTHER

It's just, you're so far away. You could have went to college close by and still helped out.

GHOST JAMIE(O.S.)

I'm not having this conversation. I'll see you this summer.

His Ghost Mother nods. Tears sprinkle her cheeks. She places the phone back in the cradle.

JAMIE

But you never did come home, you bastard.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Jamie ambles back into the living room.

He watches as the Ghost of his parents fill the

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

His Ghost Father sits on the couch sleeping. A NEWSCASTER prattles in the b.g.

The door is kicked in. A group of GHOST THIEVES rush into the room.

His Ghost Father struggles with them, but they knock him to the ground.

GHOST FATHER

I know you, you helped me on the farm -

THIEF 1 hits him with a hammer. Blood leaks from his head onto the rug. Next to Jamie's old grape juice stain.

MATCH CUT:

END FLASHBACK

INT. LIVING ROOM

The Ghost of Jamie's Father dissolves. His blood stain remains on the rug.

Tears well in Jamie's eyes. He picks up a picture of him and his Father.

INSERT PICTURE

A young Jamie, eight years old, stands next to his father. They both are laughing.

BACK TO SCENE

The picture starts moving.

MATCH CUT:

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY - FLASHBACK

Jamie's Mother snaps the picture. His Father gets him in a headlock. They wrestle and laugh.

MOTHER

I'm gonna go get us some sodas.

FATHER

Okay, baby.

JAMIE

Okay, mom.

She smiles at her boys and strolls away.

Jamie runs over and gets his balloon.

FATHER

Careful with that, champ.

No sooner does he say it, then the balloon

SLIPS from Jamie's fingers.

It floats up into the air and becomes entwined in the branches of a tree.

It bounces against the bark, but does not pop.

FATHER

It wants to come back to you. Hear it call, Jamie, Jaaaamie.

(CONTINUED)

Jamie strains to hear.

JAMIE
Is mom gonna be mad?

FATHER
Not yet.

He winks at Jamie.

He strolls over to the tree. He takes off his shirt and stretches his back, WINCING slightly at a twinge.

With a quick hop he grabs onto the lower limb. He PULLS himself up and snatches branch after branch.

The balloon is just out of reach. He leans out to grab it. The branch BREAKS. In TWO quick motions he snatches the balloon and grabs another limb.

He scrambles down the tree and presents the balloon to Jamie.

Jamie's Mother strolls up and his Father finishes putting his shirt back on.

He smiles down at Jamie.

END FLASHBACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jamie drops the picture onto the floor.

INT. JAMIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jamie sits in a chair in the corner of the room. A Ghost Father tucks a Young Ghost Jamie into bed. The balloon floats nearby, tied to the dresser.

His Ghost Father finishes reading a story and closes the book.

GHOST FATHER
One day you'll grow up. I want you
to be a good man, a strong man,
someone I would be proud to know.

JAMIE
Oh, poppa.

Jamie reaches out to touch the Ghost.

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5.

FADE OUT: