

THE MOURNING AFTER

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. GARDEN -- DAY

A well groomed rose garden surrounds an average home.

A bench is under the trees. The soft sounds of birds singing brings a peacefulness to the setting.

KAY (20s), an angelic face with long golden hair to frame it, dressed in a white dress, stoops down to smell one of the flowers which has been gently touched by morning dew.

A little girl, ABBY (2), runs from the house.

She smiles gently as the morning sun shimmers across her soft features. A breeze blows her long hair back as she lifts her face to the sky and takes in a deep breath.

Abby clutches her arms around her mother's legs in a hug. Kay lifts the child up, spins her around, causing the child to giggle.

The image blurs and the sound of laughter gets louder and louder as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BLOCK -- DAY

Two young men, JAKE (20s) and MIKE (20s) wash and polish their cars with music blaring from the huge speakers of Jake's car.

Jake grabs two beers from inside his car, clearly his pride and joy. Shiny rims, glossy paint, a beauty to behold.

Jake tosses one to Mike. They clink the bottle tops together and glug their drinks. They are clearly the cool guys.

TWO YOUNG GIRLS head into the building.

Jake and Mike whistle and beckon, but the girls rush inside. The one turns back and gives a wave.

Jake and Mike, high five, down their drinks.

Mike grabs another round of beers for them.

Jake gets in his car, revs it hard. He grins with pride.

Mike gets into his car and revs it, challenging, Jake.

The two cars spin off out of the parking lot.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. GARDEN -- DAY

The garden is sparse. The grass has been replaced with tiling.

A WOMAN (40s), short cropped hair, kneels at a flower bed. She angrily clips fresh roses but lets them fall to the ground until no flowers remain on the stems.

She gathers the flowers into a bag.

She looks up at the sun and squints, sensitive to the light.

CLOSE UP OF FACE

It is Kay. Her face is worn and tired. Dark rings under her eyes. Tears stream down her face.

END CLOSE UP

CUT TO:

INT. TRAILER PARK - MOBILE HOME -- DAY

A trashy, run down room.

A MAN (40s) sleeps on a couch. His hair is long and bedraggled around his face. He hasn't shaved in a while.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A half empty bottle of booze drops from the man's hand.

A cat cries to be fed, but the man remains still.

A clock chimes. The man twitches his nose, snores a little louder.

A phone rings. The man still does not move.

Neighbors scream and throw things at each other somewhere in the distance.

The man pushes himself up.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. TRAILER PARK -- DAY

A ratty looking park with old cars and useless junk scattered around. The mobile home stands with it's door open.

To one side is Jake's car, the front bashed in. The paint is rusted and there are no wheels on the car any more.

The camera tracks from outside to...

INT. TRAILER PARK - MOBILE HOME -- DAY

The camera focuses on the man, now clearly JAKE (40s), sitting up, leaning against the back of the chair.

Jake pulls himself from the couch into a wheelchair, which he pulls closer.

He rolls himself to the kitchen, pulls a bottle of pills from an array of medications on the counter. He opens the lid, pops two into his mouth, swallows without water.

He looks at his car through the window, sighs, then throws the rest of the tablets into his mouth and chucks the empty bottle against the wall.

He reaches for the next bottle of pills.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. CAR -- NIGHT

Twenty-year old Kay, drives the car. Abby is strapped into a child's seat in the back.

Kid's songs play on the radio and Mom and daughter sing along.

Two sets of car's lights come from the front, filling both lanes.

Kay yanks at the steering wheel and swerves.

FADE TO BLACK:

Horn honks. Tires screech. A loud scream. The sound of metal crashing.

EXT. CEMETERY -- DAY

Deathly silence hangs over the tombstones.

Forty year old Kay walks with the bag to a grave stone with the engraving "ABBY, our beloved daughter, delivered unto you now, God. 1 March 1998 - 13 October 2000".

Kay pulls bunches of rose petals from the bag, arranges them on the grave.

She pulls out a water bottle, and a pill container. She empties the tablets into her mouth, swallows them, then lays down on top of the grave.

The empty pill bottle lays on the ground.

FADE OUT.