

Broken Hearts, Shattered Dreams

By

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

SUSIE'S face fills the FRAME. She is 38, slender with long blond hair. Her eyes are bright and her cheeks flushed as she yanks a hairbrush through her hair. WIDEN to see clothes strewn about from a laundry basket. Shaking her head when she picks up a pair of ripped jeans.

SUSIE

JULIE! Why are you taking so long?
Come down and have breakfast NOW!

INT. JULIE'S ROOM - MORNING

JULIE'S room is filled with dark posters of rock bands and Britney Spears. Photos of a younger JULIE wearing a dazzling smile and holding trophies cover every inch of the room. In the middle JULIE(18), cool and confident, stands applying lipstick wearing an extremely short dress. She grimaces on hearing her mother's voice.

JULIE

Will you stop shouting? Oh man, I am
going to get a permanent ear damage
living in this house.

A car horn beeps and Julie excitedly runs to her window and grins at the smirking face looking outside the car window. JAKE, 17, with a bad case of acne, winks at her and blows her a kiss.

JULIE (CONT'D)

And a heart damage being with him...

She grabs her duffel bag and races out of the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Susie stares through the window at Jake with a disapproving look on her face. She turns on hearing loud footsteps behind her and her face contorts with rage seeing Julie's dress.

SUSIE

Just a second young lady. Where do
you think you're going, especially
wearing that dress.

JULIE

It's none of your business.

SUSIE

It most certainly is my business. You

are my daughter and I am not going to let you go out of that house wearing that dress and taking a ride with that horrible boy. You are too young to get involved in such things.

JULIE

Oh please! I don't need any lectures on relationships from you.

SUSIE

JULIE! How can you talk to me like that? Don't you have any shame, any respect? I am your mother, for God sakes!

JULIE

A Mother? A torturer is more like it! God, I wish dad had custody of me. You're such a pain.

She pushes past Susie and starts buckling her shoe. Susie stands quivering with anger.

SUSIE (VERY ANGRILY)

You live in my house so you follow my rules. You are not stepping out of this house wearing that dress and that's final!

JULIE

I am so glad you said that because guess what? I refuse to be in this house any longer.

Susie grabs Julie firmly and holds her in place.

SUSIE

Young lady, don't you dare walk away when I'm talking to you!

Julie whips around and shakes loose of her mom.

JULIE

Let go of me, okay?

SUSIE

No, I won't let go. You take that duffel bag upstairs this instant.

Julie lifts the bag and defiantly heads for the door.

SUSIE

Julie, come back here!

(no response)
I want to talk to you!

JULIE
There is NOTHING left to talk about!
I never want to see you again, I HATE
YOU!!

She runs towards the door and on the way trips over the laundry basket, spilling clothing all over the floor. She slams the door, leaving Susie in quiet tears, staring down at the mess on the floor.

As she gazes intently at the clothes, a memory is triggered.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SUSIE'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

MATCH CUT to a batch of clothes on a bed being hastily stuffed into a pair of duffel bags. WIDEN to REVEAL Susie, age 19 and clad in a short denim skirt with a revealing top, packing her belongings with a determined look.

INT. LILY'S KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

The radio is blaring while LILY (early 40's, slim and cheerful) is busily scrubbing the dishes, humming a tune.

LILY
Susie? Come on down sweet heart,
dinner is ready! I've made your
favorite soup! Come on now.

Suddenly, the doorbell RINGS. Several times. Lily puts down the dishes, dries her hands and exits to answer it.

INT. SUSIE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Susie reacts when she hears the doorbell. She grabs a last handful of clothes from a dresser drawer, stuffs it in a bag and dashes out of the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Susie bounds down the stairs with a huge smile across her face. She tosses down the bags, passes a confused Lily, and runs into the arms of JACK, a tall, muscular biker with loud tattoos on his arms and a bandanna tied around his head.

SUSIE
Jacky!

JACK

Come on, baby, let's get going.

LILY

Susie? What is this? Who is this man and what you doing with those bags?

SUSIE

I'm leaving, mom. And I'm moving in with my boyfriend Jack.

Lily grabs Susie's bags from the ground.

LILY

Susie, this is crazy. You can't be serious.

SUSIE

Look Mom , I'm fed up of this life okay! I'm sick of being everyone's good little girl. I want to go and have some fun and lead my life the way I want from now on.

LILY

Have some fun? Sweetie, you just graduated high school. You've got a great future ahead. Why spoil it all for some useless guy who doesn't give two hoots about you?

SUSIE

(angrily)

Jack is NOT useless and he has given me all the love I never got from you.

The words are like a knife in the heart to Lily. Susie puts her arm around his waist and glares at her mother.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

And we are going to get married today! Sorry but you are not invited.

LILY

Getting married? But Susie you are just 19 and-

SUSIE

(interrupts)

Exactly Mom! I'm over 18 and an adult. It is my life and its high time I got to live it the way I want! So butt out!

LILY

SUSIE!! Is it really you talking to me like that? I am your mother, show some respect!

SUSIE

And I am your adult daughter! Stop talking to me like I am some kind of five-year old making a mistake.

LILY

That's it. Susie. I will not let you leave this house! I won't let you ruin your life!

SUSIE

It's my life! And you can't stop me!

Jack who is watching all this with a bemused expression, now starts tugging at Susie's hand. Susie nods at him and turns to leave. Lily tearfully grabs her arm.

LILY

Sweetheart, please don't leave me. You're my only reason to live.

SUSIE

Oh God, here comes the crying act. Look, don't try to make me feel guilty because it's not going to work, okay!

Jack exits. Susie is close behind with Lily by her side.

LILY

Susie, please don't go. How will I live without you? I don't have anyone else! You're my baby, I love you so much.

SUSIE

Love me?

(snorts with laughter)

You just want to control me, that's all.

LILY

Susie...!

SUSIE

Mom, I am leaving now, today, and forever. I never want to hear your pathetic whines again, okay?

She grabs the bowl of soup and throws it at the floor.

SUSIE

(screaming)

I don't want anything to do with you
any more! I HATE YOU!!

With that she wrenches open the door and joins a smirking Jack, who gives a parting wave to a shocked Lily, and her two bags into a new life of her own.

Everything is quiet for a while. Lily stares at the open door for a long time and then realization hits. She falls on to the floor, sobbing her heart out.

INT.SUSIE'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

Susie is curled up on the sofa, silent tears dripping on to the plush cover. The doorbell suddenly RINGS shaking her out of her memories. She jumps up and runs to the door, suddenly filled with hope. She wrenches open the door.

SUSIE

JULIE, I -- Oh sorry Bridget, I
thought you were Julie.

BRIDGET (17 with a long mane of unruly black hair) stares at Susie in bewilderment, taking in the disappointment on her tear-streaked face.

BRIDGET

Oh, um, hi Mrs Andrews! Is Julie
home?

SUSIE

No Bridget, not right now.

BRIDGET

Gee, I didn't see her at school
today, I figured she might've stayed
home sick. I thought I'd come over
and we could start on our History
project.

She scrutinizes Susie with a suspicious face.

SUSIE

Actually Julie had some errands to
run after school. I guess she should
be back soon.

BRIDGET

Oh okay! Can you tell her to give me
a call as soon as she's home? We're

gonna be screwed if we don't submit the project by tomorrow.

SUSIE (DEJECTEDLY)
Don't worry I will. See you later.

BRIDGET
Bye, Mrs.Andrews...

But Susie had already shut the door on Bridget's face. She rests against the wall and lets out a deep worried sigh and stares nervously at the clock.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.SUSIE'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK

We see Susie , heavily pregnant , scrubbing the dishes frantically while a steaming pot sits on the stove. A door bell RINGS.

SUSIE
Jack? Can you get the door please.

We see Jack , lounging on the sofa, smoking a cigarette and watching the TV.He groans on hearing Susie.

JACK
What the heck Susie! Can't you give me a break. I just got home.

SUSIE
Yeah right! As if you got home from a long day of work! You've just been hanging around with your friends as usual.

JACK
Yeah so? Got any problem with that?

SUSIE
Yes you jerk , i do have a huge problem 'cause i am working like hell out here while you go off merry making.

JACK
Hey , you don't like living with me? Fine, Go back to your mother's house then!

SUSIE
I only wish to hell I could!

Jack swears and jumps up from the sofa. He throws the cigarette on the floor and crushes it. He then storms towards the front door and confronts a bewildered postman who hands him a package. Jack reads it, sees it's not for him, with a disgruntled expression and throws it on to the floor. He exits and SLAMS the door shut with another string of unintelligible profanities.

With this, Susie stumbles into the living room. She sees the package and picks it up. She tears it open and finds two letters. She opens the first one which has an official symbol on it and starts to read.

A CURT VOICE (V.O)

Dear Mrs. Andrews, We regret to inform you of your mother's, late LILY JONES, death due to a heart attack last week. Her house and personal artefacts have been taken over to clear her debts. We also found a note addressed to you in her house which is attached to this letter. Our heart felt condolences to you and your family.- Robert Wayne (Wayne, Mitchel and Ray Co:)

Susie looks into the the package and takes the other letter. She recognizes her mother's handwriting on the envelope. She quietly goes to her drawers and places the envelope on top, sealed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.SUSIE'S ATTIC - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

We find Susie rummaging through one of the many boxes in the Attic, sweat glistening on her face. She finds an old photograph of her Mother and stares at it for a long time till a tear falls on it. Beneath it, there lies an old envelope, yellowed with age. Susie hurriedly slits it open and reads...

LILY (V.O)

My dear Susie, how I wish to see you again before I draw my last breath. I know one day you will earn for me and long for my presence and that day I will be looking down at you with joy. I also know that you will overflow with guilt and be desperate for forgiveness. Mistakes happen by everyone, Susie dear, you are not the only one. But to clear your heart I ask you this, when you will hear an "I Love You" from your grown

daughter one day consider yourself
 forgiven for you will know that you
 have not failed as a mother. I will
 wait in joy for that glorious day. I
 love you so much , my Susie , for now
 and for eternity.

Susie breaks into anguished sobs and clutches her hair.

SUSIE (WHISPERS)

I'm so sorry Mom , so sorry..

The phone starts ringing and Susie gets up , shaking with
 tears. The answering machine picks up and she hears Julie's
 voice.

JULIE

Mom? Hey , I am so sorry. You were
 right , Jake sucks. I caught him with
 Lydia during lunch. And uh you were
 right about the dress too , I'm
 actually in detention now 'cause
 Ms. John feels that its um
 inappropriate. Can you come and pick
 me up? I am so sorry again and Mom I
 just want you to know that you are
 the best mom in the world. I love
 you.

Susie stares at the machine for a long time and slowly a smile
 spreads in between her tears.

SUSIE (WHISPERS)

I love you too.

THE END.