

"Shadows of the Evening"

by

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"SHADOWS OF THE EVENING"

FADE IN:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Darkness.

A candle flame leaps to life with the sound of a quick breath.

SARAH is inconsolable. Tears run up her face.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EARLIER

JENNY, Sarah's daughter, is at the top of the stairs in her pajamas, wiping the sleep out of her eyes.

JENNY

Mom?

SARAH

Oh sweetie, did we wake you?

JENNY

Mom, are you alright?

Jenny walks over to her Mom.

JENNY

It's okay, I'm here.

SARAH

Your father and I had a fight, a bad fight.

JENNY

Dad's gone.

Sarah looks at the empty seat across from her.

Tears begin to stream down her face.

JENNY

Don't cry Mom.

Jenny wipes at the tears on her Mother's face.

JENNY

Come on, I'll put you to bed. I'll  
tuck you in and sing you a song.

The tears come faster as Jenny blows out the candle.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EARLIER

THOMAS, Sarah's husband, is distraught.

SARAH

Oh my God.

THOMAS

I wanted to tell you.

SARAH

I don't understand.

THOMAS

It's been killing me.

SARAH

Where do you go every day?

THOMAS

Nowhere.

SARAH

What have we been living on?

THOMAS

Our savings, but...

SARAH

But, what?

THOMAS

There's nothing left.

SARAH

There must be something. How bad  
is it?

THOMAS

Bad.

SARAH

Could we lose the house?

THOMAS  
Maybe. I owe everyone.

SARAH  
How can this be happening?

THOMAS  
Don't worry.

SARAH  
Don't worry! What the hell is wrong with you!

THOMAS  
Quiet. You'll wake Jenny.

SARAH  
You've been lying to me this whole time. We could lose everything.

THOMAS  
No. I won't let that happen.

SARAH  
What are you going to do about it? What are you going to do about us, about your family? Have you thought about that?

THOMAS  
I have a plan.

SARAH  
You have a plan? Go to hell.

Thomas rises from the table.

THOMAS  
I'm sorry, I...

Thomas heads for the door.

SARAH  
Thomas, come back.

Sarah winces at the sound of the front door slamming.

SARAH  
Thomas.

JENNY (O.S.)

Mom?

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EARLIER

Thomas sits at the dining room table.

THOMAS

You look lovely.

SARAH

Thank you.

THOMAS

What's the occasion? Have I forgotten something?

SARAH

No, just a romantic dinner between a husband and his wife.

Sarah pours red wine for both of them.

THOMAS

Wine? Do you plan on getting me drunk and having your way with me?

SARAH

Yes, yes I do.

THOMAS

Good plan.

Sarah takes a sip of her wine.

THOMAS

Is Jenny asleep?

SARAH

Like a baby.

THOMAS

I miss that.

SARAH

What?

THOMAS

You know, sleeping like a baby,  
dead to the world, just sweet  
dreams.

SARAH

Is everything okay? You haven't  
touched your wine.

THOMAS

It just needs a little time to  
breathe.

SARAH

Something's wrong.

THOMAS

No. Nothing's wrong.

SARAH

You're lying.

THOMAS

Sarah, please.

SARAH

I can tell. I can always tell.

THOMAS

Just let it be.

SARAH

Tell me.

THOMAS

I'm begging you, please let this  
go?

SARAH

Did something happen at work?

Thomas looks away.

SARAH

What happened?

THOMAS

I lost my job.

SARAH

Weren't you going to tell me?

Thomas is silent.

SARAH  
Thomas?

THOMAS  
I've been trying to find another  
job. You have no idea how hard  
I've been trying. There's nothing.

SARAH  
You've been trying? When did you  
lose your job?

THOMAS  
Three months ago.

SARAH  
Oh my God.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - EARLIER

Jenny is asleep in bed.

Sarah, in casual clothes, watches over her and then kisses  
her on the cheek.

She closes Jenny's bedroom door.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarah stands in front of her vanity mirror.

Slowly, a smile, graces her face.

She changes her clothes; lace stockings, a slinky black  
dress, earrings, a necklace, and perfume.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarah lights a match and sets the dining room candle aflame.

THOMAS (O.S.)  
You look lovely.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - EARLIER

Sarah looks at herself in the mirror. She leans in closer. There is a sadness in her eyes.

She leans back and opens the medicine cabinet. She removes a prescription bottle.

"Clozapine (antipsychotic) - 500 mg taken nightly"

JENNY (O.S.)  
Mom, I'm ready for bed.

Sarah stares at the bottle. Weighing it.

JENNY (O.S.)  
Mom.

Sarah puts the bottle back on the shelf.

SARAH  
Coming.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenny lays in bed clutching her favorite stuffed animal. Sarah sits at her side and gently sweeps back her hair.

SARAH  
Did you remember to brush your teeth?

Jenny smiles.

SARAH  
That's my girl.

JENNY  
Did you take your medicine?

Sarah smiles.

JENNY  
Mom, I'm serious. You know what happens when you don't.

SARAH  
Don't worry about me.

JENNY  
I can't help it.

SARAH  
Say your prayers.

JENNY  
God bless Mom and please watch over  
my Dad in Heaven and let him know I  
love him very much. Amen.

SARAH  
Amen.

Sarah kisses Jenny good night, tucks in the covers, and rises  
to leave.

JENNY  
Sing me a song?

SARAH  
Jenny, it's late.

JENNY  
Please.

Sarah thinks for a moment and then sits back down.

SARAH  
Okay, close your eyes.

Jenny shuts her eyes.

SARAH  
(softly singing)  
Now the day is over, night is  
drawing nigh  
Shadows of the evening steal across  
the sky  
  
Spirt, give the weary calm and  
sweet repose  
With thy tend'rest blessing may our  
eyelids close

Sarah turns off the bedside lamp. Moonlight through the  
windows casts the room in blue shadows.

SARAH  
Grant to little children visions  
bright of thee  
Guard the sailors tossing on the  
deep blue sea  
(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

Comfort every sufferer watching  
late in pain  
Those who plan some evil, from  
their sins restrain

Thru the long night watches may  
thine angels spread  
Their white wings above me  
watching 'round my bed

When the morning wakens then may I  
arise  
Pure and fresh and sinless in thy  
holy eyes

FADE OUT.