

Tell-Tale Dress 1st Ten Pages

By

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

1

GARBLED VOICES float through the air in a tree-lined cemetery.

SUPER: Present

A late-model car pulls to a stop in front of a family plot with a single tombstone visible.

GILLIAN DAVIS (37) gets out of the car. By her outward appearance, she seems to have it together. Coiffed hair, nails, and trendy clothes.

As she moves closer it is clear that these layers show signs of disrepair.

GILLIAN
Mommy's here Lil' Jackiebug.

2 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

2

Gillian, MOANS in darkness.

SUPER: Three Years Earlier

GILLIAN
Oh, GOD.

A PLOP and a SPLASH.

GILLIAN
No!

Light rushes in as she gets off the toilet. Blood runs from the back of her legs.

GILLIAN
Dear God no!

Gillian reaches down, SCREAMS as she holds up her blood covered hands.

3 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

3

Gillian makes her way towards the tombstone.

INSERT: Tombstone reads: Our Little Angel, while we miss you, you were needed to bring joy to those in Heaven.

4 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

4

Gillian SCREAMS as blood squirts on the mirror; her wrist lays open.

SUPER: Present, A Week Later

JACK DAVIS (37) rushes in. He's in a suit, which he wears like armor.

JACK
What the fuck!

He wraps Gillian's sliced wrist in a towel, hurries her out of the room.

MONTAGE:

Gillian gets medical attention.

Jack's on the phone, his arm around Gillian.

Gillian glances at Jack as they ride in his car, she returns her gaze to the scars on her wrist.

Gillian's escorted into a mental facility.

5 INT. PSYCH HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

5

Gillian in her bed sits up, eyes wide open. A NURSE (27) hurries in.

SUPER: Three Months Later

NURSE
What's the matter?

GILLIAN
Another nightmare.

The nurse guides Gillian back down, places her head back on the pillow.

NURSE
You'll be alright dear.

GILLIAN
The nightmares feel so real.

NURSE
Just try to get your rest.

GILLIAN
I stopped having them two months ago.
Then I started taking that...

NURSE
No need to worry.

GILLIAN
But, I want to go home!

NURSE
You've been here a long time, and
you're doing great. The new medication
takes some getting used to dear.

She wipes the sweat off Gillian's face.

NURSE
One nightmare is not going to keep you
from going home.

6 INT. PSYCH HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

6

Gillian waits at the foot of a bed.

SARA COOPER (21) a nurses aid, makes the bed. Her perfect
hair and skin reveal her outer beauty. Her drab hospital
issue scrubs hang on her like a curtain hiding the real Sara.

SARA
I'm almost done with what I have to
do, then I will be out of your hair.

GILLIAN
Thanks.

Jack enters the room he has a computer bag over his shoulder,
he kisses Gillian.

JACK
Good news!

GILLIAN
What?

JACK
Just a few more days and you will get
to come home. Then we can move past
this.

SARA
Won't that be nice?

GILLIAN
I'm not ready Jackiebug. I still see
the red goo in my dreams and that tiny
body in the toilet.

Sara pats Gillian on the back, Gillian whirls around.

GILLIAN
Don't touch me!

Jack makes his way to Gillian, hugs her.

JACK
Don't yell at Sara because you're
scared. The doctor feels you are ready
to go home.

SARA
Should I get her nurse?

JACK
No. She's got to get over the
miscarriage. Honey, I've got something
for you.

Jack reaches into his bag.

JACK
Sara, you didn't see this.

SARA
I never do.

Sara turns away as Jack pulls out a nip size bottle of vodka.

JACK
We'll deal with your drinking once you
are home.

Gillian grabs it, empties with a big swig.

SARA
I'm going to check on another patient
then go on break. I'll shut the door.

He takes the bottle back.

JACK
I'll bring you more, later. I have to
get to work.

Gillian clutches the empty bottle. Jack kisses her, takes the
bottle.

GILLIAN
I love you.

JACK
Love you, brush your teeth.

7 EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

7

Sara smokes a cigarette as Jack passes.

SARA
You didn't stay long.

JACK
Sometimes I just can't be here. It
feels like I lost a baby and my wife.

Sara exhales, tosses the butt away.

SARA
That's awful.

JACK
I feel horrible for enabling her
drinking. It's gotten worse since all
this shit happened. I just don't want
her...

SARA
That's okay, get her home.

JACK
Thanks for listening.

She hugs him; they hold each other just a bit too long.

Sara pulls away slowly, deliberate to the point of being
almost seductive.

SARA
Give me your phone.

Jack hands her his phone. Sara types in some numbers and
hands it back.

SARA (CONT'D)
 Here's my number.
 (beat)
 Call me if you need a friend.

8 INT. GILLIAN & JACK'S BEDROOM - DAY

8

Jack rests on his bed, phone to his ear.

SUPER: Ten days later.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
 Jack!

JACK
 This is not my fault.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
 You said a few more days; it's been...

JACK
 I know how long you've been away.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
 Be here at 11 am.

JACK
 I can't be there by then.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
 But, they said I could leave at 11 am.
 I've been waiting ten long days since
 you were here.

JACK
 Now you are ready; you knew I am
 working extra hours. Why is that...

GILLIAN (O.S.)
 Stop it, Jack.

JACK
 The day I work extra to help pay for
 your In Vitro treatments.
 (beat)
 That turned out to be fruitless.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
 That's not fair, it wasn't my fault.

JACK
I didn't mean it that way.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
I need you here, I want to come home.
When can you be here?

JACK
Fine, I'll try to be there about two.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
Okay.

JACK
No promises, though.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
Are you going to forgive me, Jack?

JACK
No need for me to forgive you.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
Okay.

JACK
I'm just trying to keep our heads
above water.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
I'm sorry. God, I could use a drink.

JACK
That's getting excessive don't you
think. You promised you would get a
handle on this.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
I can't take the meds, Jack. The
nightmares are too much. After a few
days on that medication, the
nightmares come back.

JACK
But you want to drink all the time.
You're not even trying to slow down.

GILLIAN (O.S.)
I know. I just can't deal with seeing
what happened, over and over again.
I'll stop once I am home.

JACK

You want me to call my sister? Or maybe Sara, maybe she could sneak you something.

GILLIAN (O.S.)

No, I can wait for you. I need a few days before I want to visit with anyone.

JACK

I'll get there as soon as I can.

GILLIAN (O.S.)

I love you Jackiebug.

JACK

See you real soon honey.

Jack hangs up the phone, sets it on the nightstand. He quickly picks it back up.

9 INT. SARA'S BEDROOM - DAY

9

Sara buttons her top, phone RINGS.

SARA

Hello.

GILLIAN (O.S.)

You got a second.

SARA

Gillian? This isn't okay; you shouldn't be calling me.

GILLIAN (O.S.)

Are you working tonight?

SARA

No.

Sara's phone SIGNALS another call.

INSERT: INCOMING CALL JACK DAVIS.

SARA

I have another call.

GILLIAN (O.S.)

Can you bring me a tiny bottle of

liquor?

SARA

I can't.

Her phone SIGNALS a second time.

GILLIAN (O.S.)

You know I have been drinking in here.
I need something. If you don't bring
some booze, maybe I'll tell.

SARA

No need to blackmail me. I have to go.
(beat)
Don't piss off a gypsy Gillian.

GILLIAN (O.S.)

I'm sorry Sara; I'm scared about going
home.

Her phone SIGNALS a third time.

SARA

I forgive you. I'm getting another
call, talk to the nurse. Maybe they
can give you...

GILLIAN (O.S.)

No more meds. Oh, and I am sorry.

SARA

You'll be just fine. Bye.

She takes Jack's call.

INT. GILLIAN & JACK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jack holds his phone to his ear, slips off his shoes.

SARA (O. S.)

Hello.

JACK

Can I call in that friend request?