

Grady

By

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EXT. 1128 SUNNYSIDE COURT - NIGHT

A foyer in a beautiful mansion rests peacefully in the QUIET summer night. Camera is centered on a wooden door with a glass window.

Light becomes visible as the sound of a rickety car pulls to a stop in the driveway. The engine and light cut off. Muttered voices are approaching. Suddenly, hush noises.

A pause... A brick crashes through the glass. A gloved hand reaches in and turns the knob.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. YARD SALE - DAY

Camera pans around a yard sale on a picture-perfect suburban block. Some miscellaneous objects surround more ORGANIZED tables with home appliances, books, old trading cards, clothes, and STUFFED ANIMALS.

Tucked amongst all the animals on the table is one raggedy old BEAR, dirty fur with chipped, plastic, black glasses.

Besides the glasses, the only thing the bear wears is the expression of someone who can hardly remember the last time it was cared for. A complete look of dejection.

MACY MARONE (6), wearing a blue sun dress, approaches the table with her mother, JOANNA MARONE (40s), wearing a WHITE sundress similar to her daughter's.

MACY

Mommy! Mommy! Look at all the animals!

JOANNA

Yes, I see honey, but we have to go.

Macy hustles the last few feet to the table and picks through the animals.

JOANNA

Did you hear me? We have to go.

MACY

Ohh look at this one!

Macy shows her mother a big green stuffed lizard.

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA

Really? A lizard? Next thing you'll be asking for a real one. Put that back.

Macy doesn't need her mother to tell her, she's already putting it back to pick up the next one, a GIANT stuffed sheep half her size.

MACY

Look how big this one is!

JOANNA

And with how messy your room is you don't even have a spot for it.

Macy puts it back and continues to peruse through the animals as ALLISON, a warm looking woman in her 60s approaches the table.

Macy picks up the dirty teddy bear and looks at it right in the eyes, as if she knows to feel sympathy for it.

ALLISON

Why hello there.

MACY

Hi.

There's something about this bear. It's captivating Macy.

Joanna grabs Macy's shoulder.

JOANNA

Ok, that's it. Put that back. We're going.

MACY

Mommy, I like this one.

ALLISON

Huh, totally forgot about him.

JOANNA

Macy seriously put that back. It's filthy anyways.

MACY

(to Allison)

Who is he?

ALLISON

That was my daughter's when she was your age. He's spent a long time without her.

MACY

Mom I really like him.

JOANNA

He probably has a stench too.

Joanna grabs a shiny stuffed dragon and waves it in Macy's face.

JOANNA

Here, look at this one. You can get him if we can go.

Macy pouts. A face that shows the devastation that she would experience without this bear.

JOANNA

Fine. Fine! We'll get it but we're going.

(to Allison)

How much?

Allison looks at Macy, then back at Joanna.

ALLISON

You know what, no charge.

(to Macy)

You guys look good together.

Macy and Allison smile at each other.

INT. MARONE'S CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

Joanna and Macy sit in silence. Joanna's face is sour. Macy's is still gazing endlessly at the bear.

Joanna looks back at Macy in the rear-view mirror, back at the road, then back at Macy.

JOANNA

When we get back now you have to clean your room. It's ridiculous I have to keep waiting on you for things.

Macy looks at her mother, then back at the bear in her lap.

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA

Have to wait for you back there,  
have to wait for you to clean your  
room. Had to buy that damn thing to  
get you to leave. Unbelievable.

Macy brings the bear up to her chest and puts her little arms around it.

JOANNA

Ya know, maybe it's perfect, dirty  
bear for a dirty room. Yea,  
perfect.

Cut to: Macy and the bear in the back seat. The bear's arms are around Macy's neck. A gentle HUG.

INT. MARONE'S HOUSE - MACY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Macy, now in pajamas, cleans her room, but not well. More like hiding clothes where ever she can instead of folding them and putting them away.

The bear, like a newly adopted rescue dog carefully adjusting to a new home, watches from Macy's bed. It's a queen bed. The room is still covered in clothes and toys.

Macy looks at the bear, smiles, drops a pile of clothes, goes and picks it up, and leaves the room.

INT. MARONE'S HOUSE - PARENTS' BATHROOM - NIGHT

Macy turns on the bath, grabs a bottle of bubble bath soap and pours an excessive amount in the tub.

She bathes the bear, running her soaped-up fingers through each and every clump of his dirty hairs, separating those that had become stuck together over the years.

Eventually Macy pulls the drain and removes the bear. As if she had a stroke of genius, she grabs her mother's hair dryer and uses it to dry the bear.

Macy sets the bear down on the toilet seat, exits the room, and re-enters within seconds with a black marker.

She grabs the bear and begins to fill in the spots on his glasses where the black paint had chipped off.

Finishing, she pauses to think.

(CONTINUED)

She finds the old, frayed tag, and after a second writes:  
GRADY.

Grady and Macy look at each other. There's still signs of emotional weariness on his face, but it's as if he's beginning to feel a sense of home with Macy.

INT. MARONE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Macy sits with her mother and father, DAN, (40s) dressed in a sharp suit, and Grady, who's in his own chair, sitting on two BIG BOOKS so his head's above the table.

Joanna reads the newspaper on her TABLET.

Dan aggressively types on his SMARTPHONE with one hand and sips his coffee with his other.

Macy looks back and forth between her dad, her cereal, and Grady.

MACY

Daddy, have you met Grady.

Dan doesn't look up.

DAN

Hm?

MACY

Have you met Grady?

Dan's only movement is lifting his cup to sip his coffee, eyes still fixed on his phone.

DAN

Who?

MACY

Grady.

Dan only moves his eyes to look up from his phone.

DAN

That stuffed animal?

MACY

He's my bear-friend!

DAN

(to Grady)

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

Dan puts his phone in his pocket, takes a last sip, and gets up from the table.

DAN  
(to Joanna)  
Alright I gotta get to work.

Joanna barely averts her attention from her tablet.

JOANNA  
Bye.

Dan puts his suit jacket and begins to turn for the door.

JOANNA  
Oh and remember to be home early. I want to beat traffic.

DAN  
For what now?

JOANNA  
I've told you at least five times, we're going to the Mannellys' lakehouse for the weekend. It's Pat's 50th.

DAN  
Goddamn, I completely forgot.

JOANNA  
I told them you'd be there.

Dan could not look less excited about this.

DAN  
Fine, fine, but you'll have to pack my bag while I'm at work.

JOANNA  
Fine.

DAN  
Alright, bye.

JOANNA  
Bye.

INT. MARONE'S HOUSE - MACY'S ROOM - EVENING

Macy lies on the floor drawing in a coloring book. Grady sits next to her on a small blue suitcase.

When Macy finally talks, it's as if she's about to have a conversation she's been thinking about for a while.

MACY

Grady, do you think all parents stop talking as much when they're older? (Beat) I mean, kids talk a lot; Mommy and Daddy say like two words to each other. (Longer beat) And they don't say much to me. (Beat) It kinda makes it hard to talk to them, ya know? (Beat) I like talking to you though, you're a good listener Grady. (Beat)

They sit in silence for a moment until Joanna's voice comes yelling from another room.

JOANNA (O.S.)

Macy! We're going now.

MACY

(to Joanna)

Ok coming!

MACY

(Back to Grady)

You know, maybe it's not the worst thing when people don't talk much. There's this nice boy Fransisco in my class who everyone talks really mean to. I bet he wouldn't mind if people didn't talk as much. (Beat) He doesn't talk much. I wonder if anyone listens to him when he does. (Beat) I feel like that would be nice for him.

JOANNA (O.S.)

Macy!

Macy grabs Grady and her suitcase and leaves.



EXT. MARONE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Joanna stands next to the driver's seat of a Volvo stationwagon. Dan is in the passengers seat. Joanna's hand taps the roof of the car aggesivley.

JOANNA

Let's go! We're going to be late!  
(Beat) Macy!

Macy hurries through the front door towards the car, trying to put her coat on and carry her suitcase.

MACY

I'm coming, I'm coming!

Macy gets to the car, throws her suitcase in the open trunk, and gets in the backseat. Joanna gets in and begins to drive.

INT. MARONE'S CAR - EVENING

MACY

Wait! I forgot Grady!

JOANNA

It's too late to go back. I don't want to hit traffic.

MACY

But we have to!

JOANNA

I'm sure your stuffed animal will be ok for the weekend.

Macy's voice starts to crack. Her face reddens.

MACY

But-

JOANNA

No Macy.

The car's only made it to the end of the block. Sunnyside and Crossing.

Macy's face is seen through the window. Her watering eyes let one tear go. A look of helpless hurt and defeat.

EXT. SUNNYSIDE AND CROSSING - NIGHT

A beat down 1990s Toyota Camry drives up Sunnyside Court. It pulls into the Marones' driveway.

EXT. MARONE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The car shuts off. Two Hispanic teenagers get out. Juan (18) and Max (17). They wear black clothes and backpacks. Juan carries a BRICK.

INT. MARONE'S HOUSE - FOYER

The brick crashes through the glass on the door. Juan's hand reaches in and turns the doorknob.

Tripping over their own feet, Juan and Max enter.

JUAN

In and out, get everything you can.

MAX

I'll take this floor.

JUAN

Nah you go upstairs.

MAX

Why I gotta be the one to go upstairs?

JUAN

You wanna stand and talk bout this shit or get outta here.

MAX

Fine.

Max heads into the house and up the stairs.

INT. MARONE'S HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR (CONTINUOUS) - NIGHT

Max goes down the hall. Opens one door to an office. Grabs a laptop.

Next room is the Marone's master bedroom. Max frantically searches around. Knocking over a FAMILY PICTURE off the desk in the process.

He flips one of the pillows on the bed, finds a jewelry box and puts it in the backpack with the laptop.

Next room is Macy's. He looks around, but the child's room has nothing worth grabbing. Right before he turns back to leave he spots Grady sitting on the bed.

EXT. MARONE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Juan stands next to the driver's seat of the car.

JUAN  
Yo let's go!

Max comes running out of the door. Backpack full, Grady in hand.

Max jumps in the car and it drives off.

INT. JUAN'S CAR - NIGHT

The car drives out of the driveway and away from the house.

JUAN  
What's with the bear?

MAX  
It's for Sisco.

JUAN  
So we run up a house and you get your little bro an early birthday present?

MAX  
Yo man I got shit in my bag too.

JUAN  
Yea I say get everything you can and you grab something worth nothing. Could've grabbed anything else in that house, you grab a fucking teddy bear.

MAX  
Yo I got shit. You know Sisco's been goin through shit lately.

JUAN  
What? The teddy bear's gonna beat the kids at school's asses for him.

(CONTINUED)

MAX  
He's fuckin five years old. It's  
just a nice thing man. I think  
he'll like it.

EXT. JUAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Grady's face is seen through the window. Beaten, broken,  
afraid.

Arial view of the car driving on an empty night highway.

INT. MAX'S HOUSE - MORNING

Max sits at the table in a small kitchen watching the news  
on a small, old TV set. It's clear he's running on no sleep.

FRANSISCO (5) enters. His shoulders are slumped, face blank.

He opens the refridgerator, which is near empty. He grabs  
milk, shakes the empty carton, puts it down next to the  
fridge and sits at the table.

He begins to pour cereal into a bowl.

MAX  
What's up bro?

FRANSISCO  
Hi Max.

Max looks at his younger brother with a look of pitty.

MAX  
Hey yo I got you somethin.

FRANSISCO  
Yea?

MAX  
Yea, check it out.

Max puts Grady on the table.

Grady and Max look at each other, both sharing expressions  
of weariness. Soft eyes. No confidence. Sad.

Then, Fransisco SMILES.

He picks up Grady and brings him closer, smiling right at  
him.

(CONTINUED)

FRANSISCO

Thanks Max. I like him.

Fransisco is examining Grady, with gentle excitement.

MAX

Yea I thought you would. You should give him a name or somethin.

FRANSISCO

I think he has one.

Fransisco's looking at the tag.

FRANSISCO

It's Grady.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. MARONE'S CAR - MORNING

Joanna holds her cell phone to her ear with her shoulder. Every word is frantic and upset.

Macy sits in the back, lap empty, looking out the window. Her face tells you she's missing something.

JOANNA

It happened last week... Yea I've been a wreck since, I can hardly sleep... The laptops, jewlery, everything... Yes I have some warranties... I just want who did it to be found.

The car pulls up to the morning dropoff, Joanna still talking on the phone.

JOANNA

... At this point I'm sure whoever did it's getting away with it-

As the car pulls to a stop, Macy gets her backpack and begins to get out of the car.

MACY

Bye Mommy.

JOANNA

Bye Macy.

Macy begins to walk toward the school.

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA

Wait! Macy!

Seen from through Joanna's windshield is an old Toyota Camry a few cars ahead, with Fransisco getting out, holding Grady.

JOANNA

Macy that's your bear isn't it?!

MACY

Grady!

EXT. JOHN J. BARNARD ELEMENTARY - MORNING

Macy drops her bag and begins to sprint towards Fransisco.

Joanna drops her phone on the passenger seat, gets out, and begins furiously marching up the street to the Toyota.

Macy runs up to Grady and Fransisco. Her smile stretches across her entire face.

MACY

Grady!

Fransisco doesn't even know how to react.

MACY

(more sheepishly)

Hi Fransisco, how do you have Grady?

Fransisco seems equally shocked that Macy is talking to him as he is that she knows Grady.

FRANSISCO

Umm, my brother gave him to me.

Joanna reaches the car and BANGS on the driver's window. Max rolls it down.

MAX

Can I help you miss?

Joanna can hardly contain her fury.

JOANNA

Where did you get that bear?

Pure shock on Max's face. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Oh shit!

Max hits the gas and immediately breaks. The cars stuck in the drop-off line.

Joanna sees Macy talking to Fransisco on the other side of the car.

JOANNA

Hey! Give him her bear, you, you thief!

Fransisco doesn't understand.

MAX

Hey don't talk to him like that!

JOANNA

I'll say what I want to you and him! Now hey do what I said, give my daughter her bear back!

Fransisco's eyes begins to tear up. Macy notices.

MACY

(to Fransisco)

It's okay.

JOANNA

Macy do you know this kid? I know that's your bear. They stole it!

Macy's looking at Fransisco with the same look of sympathy she first had with Grady.

Fransisco's so scared and overwhelmed his stuttered words can barely be made out.

FRANSISCO

No he was a gift. My big brother gave him to me.

MAX

Look miss-

JOANNA

Shut it you!

MACY

Mom!

Joanna freezes.

(CONTINUED)

MACY  
Mom it's ok.

Macy looks at Fransisco.

MACY  
Can I see him?

Fransisco hands Grady to Macy, his head hanging down.

Macy looks at Grady and smiles. Grady still doesn't look exuberantly happy, but finally he has an expression of long-awaited contentness. Comfort. And understanding.

MACY  
Here.

Macy hands Grady back to Fransisco.

Fransisco looks up, shocked again, and hesitantly accepts Grady back.

MACY  
Will you be good to him?

FRANSISCO  
Yes.

MACY  
I think you will to. You can have him. You two look good together.

JOANNA  
Macy!

FRANSISCO  
Thank you.

Fransisco cracks a slight smile, surpressed still from a history of neglect directed towards him from other kids.

Macy SMILES.

MACY  
You're welcome. Just promise to talk to him. He's a really good listener.

Fransisco really SMILES.

FRANSISCO  
I will.

Grady's looking at Fransisco, happy.



CONTINUED:

16.

FADE TO BLACK