

Yesterday

By

Alexandra Robertson

Based on the song: "Yesterday" by The Beatles

aerobert@syr.edu
617-320-4654

1 INT. BEDROOM-MORNING

1

FADE IN

SALLY, 17, pale with brown hair is sleeping peacefully in her bedroom, painted a neat cream color, tastefully decorated with a few framed photos of family and friends, and a Beatles poster.

Suddenly, a blood curdling scream echoes through her house, sending her shooting up in bed. Panicked, Sally sprints out her bedroom door, down the hallway and toward the source of the noise.

2 INT. HOUSE-MORNING

2

Sally suddenly halts when she reaches the source of the scream, her MOTHER (40s), who is wailing on the floor of the foyer with two POLICE OFFICERS at the front door, with a somber look on their faces.

MOTHER
(Sobbing hysterically)
My baby...no...why...not my baby

Sally, with panic on her face, looks to the officers as if to ask what is going on.

One of the officers slowly pulls out a photo of a beautiful young girl, smiling widely, exposing deep dimples.

POLICE OFFICER 1
(Holding up photo)
Is this your sister miss?

SALLY
(Confused)
Yes, why?

The officers look to each other in sadness.

POLICE OFFICER 2
We are so sorry to have to inform you of this, but... your sister's body was found hanging from a tree in the woods early this morning. We have ruled it a suicide.

Silence. Sally's hearing goes out, no longer hearing the crying of her mother, only ringing in her ears as she stumbles back from the officers and runs back down the hallway but regains it slightly to hear them speak to her mother.

(CONTINUED)

POLICE OFFICER 1

Ma'am, we are truly sorry to inform you of this. Per our protocol, we need you to come with us to the coroner's office to sign some paperwork and to view the body...

3 INT- BEDROOM-MORNING

3

Sally sprints into her room, slamming the door behind her. She hurls her back into the door making contact with such force she could have knocked it down. Her face scrunches up and she begins to break down.

Slowly, her body glides down the door like the tears falling from her face, into a puddle of limbs on the ground.

Between her sobs, she hears the click of the front door shutting, her mother leaving with the police officers.

The tears pouring from Sally's eyes leave her without sight, screaming in anguish, clutching her chest on the ground for what seems like eternity.

SALLY

(Sobbing)

NO...NO...NO...Katie...

When there seems to be no tears left, Sally begins to collect herself and open her eyes, as she spots a TEDDY BEAR peaking out from under her bed. Her eyes widen.

CUT TO:

4 FLASHBACK-INT.BEDROOM-NIGHT

4

Sally is furiously typing then deleting words on her laptop, working on an assignment on her bed when her sister KATIE, 15 petite with light brown hair and protruding dimples opens Sally's door holding a teddy bear

KATIE

Hey, can I talk to you for a second?

SALLY

(Angrily)

UM Hello?? Can you please knock? And no. I'm busy. Leave me alone.

KATIE

It really won't take long I...

(CONTINUED)

SALLY
(Growing more angry)
I said NO. I really don't care
about anything you want to talk
about. Leave. Me. Alone.

KATIE
(While throwing bear into the
room)
HONESTLY SALLY? FUCK. YOU.

The flung teddy bear misses Sally and lands on the floor by
the end of her bed, half under the bed.

Katie leaves the room, slamming the door behind her.

SALLY
(Annoyed)
Ugh

Cut to:

5 PRESENT DAY-INT.BEDROOM-MORNING

5

Sally gets up from off the floor, remembering what had
happened the night before and runs to grab the bear, picking
it up and clutching it hard against her chest

SALLY
No...No...No...Huh? What is..

Holding the bear, she feels something strange on its chest.
She flips it around to see that stuck its front, is a yellow
sticky note.

SALLY
(Reading the note out loud)
Meet me at the treehouse. I need to
tell you something but don't want
mom to hear.
(Pauses)
Oh my god no

Sally sprints out of her room, and runs out of her house to
her backyard, in desperation or maybe hope that what she had
just learned wasn't real.

She runs across the backyard and climbs up a ladder into an old treehouse, ducking her head at the low doorway to enter.

SALLY
(Gasps)
NO

Upon entering the small treehouse, Sally immediatly notices the 5-10 orange PILL BOTTLES in a corner on the ground.

She goes over to the corner, and begins to again cry for her sister.

While Picking up one of the bottles, she gains a confused look on her face

SALLY
(Speaking to herself)
They're...full?

Sally begins to pick up and examine the bottles, that are each labeled with long, complicated words.

She quickly pulls out her IPHONE and begins to type one of the long names of the pills into the search bar

SALLY(CONT'D)
(Spelling out loud)
F-L-U-O-X-E-T-I-N-E

Sally presses the "search" button on her phone and reads the results.

SALLY
(Reading out loud)

Affects chemicals in the brain that
may be unbalanced in people with
depression... WHAT?!

She continues to pick up and type in the name of every pill bottle in the corner.

SALLY
(tossing them to her side one
after the other)
Treats depression, balances low
moods caused by depression,
depression, DEPRESSION
(putting head in hands)
How did I not know?

(CONTINUED)

Sally looks out one of the small windows and begins to think

CUT TO:

7

FLASHBACK-INT.DINING ROOM-NIGHT

7

We see 10-15 people, young and old sitting around a dinner table. With the mass amounts of food and the festive decorations and assume this is Thanksgiving.

Everyone is talking and laughing when Sally's mother gets up to make an announcement.

MOTHER

Hi everyone! So glad we could all be together for once!! Well, I just wanted to say I am thankful for you all- my family. Through thick and thin I am grateful to have you all be the ones that always have my back! Now lets eat!

Some nod their heads, some raise their glasses but everyone continues to laugh, talk and eat.

Closing in on Katie, sitting at the last of the seats at the table, is silently picking at her food. AUNT SHARON, 62, who dons greying hair and an vintage brooch on her sweater, notices Katie.

AUNT SHARON

Honey, you haven't touched a bite of my stuffing, you used to devour it within seconds, you told me it was your favorite!

KATIE

It still is, I guess I'm just not that hungry. And everyone talking is giving me a headache.

AUNT SHARON

(Pleading)

Won't you just have a little bite? For me?

KATIE

I don't feel well. I need to go.

Katie quickly gets up from the table and leaves to go to her bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

AUNT SHARON
(From across the table)
Sally? Could you come here for a
moment please?

SALLY
Sure!

Sally gets up from her seat and comes around to where Aunt Sharon is sitting, bending down to hear what she has to say.

AUNT SHARON
Your sister isn't feeling very
well, would you be a dear and bring
her this water?

She hands Sally a full glass of water, gives her a pat on the shoulder then continues eating.

With a half-smile, Sally walks to Katie's room to deliver the water, Knocks on the door, and walks in.

8 FLASHBACK CONT. INT-BEDROOM-NIGHT

8

SALLY
Why do I always find you lying in
bed? You literally woke up 4 hours
ago.

KATIE
(Sharply)
Headache.

SALLY
Is that really what you told Aunt
Sharon? Like you are legit just
lazy.

KATIE
Okay Sally, whatever you say.

Sally turns to leave the room

SALLY
(sarcastically)
Here's your water. Have fun.

Sally closes Katie's bedroom door behind her and leaves to go back downstairs to join the rest of her family.

Sally joyfully skips into the kitchen to eat breakfast to find Katie silently reading the cartoons on the back of a cereal box, playing with her freshly poured cereal.

SALLY

(with excitement)

Oh my god did you see that Becca and Zack broke up?

KATIE

No.

SALLY

It was craazzzy! Emma posted on Zack's Facebook wall asking when they can have their next lunch date, and Becca commented and they got in a HUGE fight and then Emma revealed that she and Zack KISSED. It was all online last night! How did you not see this?

KATIE

I deleted my Facebook.

SALLY

What do you mean you deleted your Facebook? Why?

KATIE

I just didn't want it anymore.

SALLY

What happened to you? You used to be the fun sister.

KATIE

(Mouth full of cereal)

Maybe its just puberty. Turning me into a bitch.

SALLY

Funny.

KATIE

I did hear that they are having a "Tribute to the Beatles" concert in the park on Saturday if you want to go.

(CONTINUED)

SALLY
Sounds a little too "fun" for you.

KATIE
Ah, I guess you're right. Forget I asked.

Sally's IPHONE begins to ring in her pocket. She takes it out and squeals when she see's the caller ID

SALLY
Oh my god its Ally!
(Picking up the phone)
You saw it too right?! Its insane
its the only thing I can think of!!
The whole school will be talking
about it today!

Sally walks out of the Kitchen while continuing to talk on the phone.

CUT TO:

10 PRESENT DAY-EXT.TREEHOUSE-MORNING 10

After recalling all these memories, Sally begins to cry on the Treehouse floor.

SALLY
(Crying to herself)
I was so stupid! All the signs were
there! How did I just... not know?!

She looks over to the corner with the pill bottles and notice's something she didn't see before, a sticky note under the cluster of the bottles.

She moves the bottle aside and picks up the note, which is written in Katie's handwriting

We read the note over Sally's shoulder

NOTE
(In Katie's voice)
I couldn't bring myself to take
these, I didn't think I deserved
any help. I'm sorry I never told
you.

SALLY
(Out loud)
No, I should have known. I should
have figured it out, you were my
sister, I...

(CONTINUED)

Sally feels another sticky note attached to the back of the one she just read.

She pulls the one just read back to see what is written on the other one. Its text is in bold.

SALLY (CONT'D)
 (Reading it out loud)
 Go to the spot were we would play
 dress up.
 (Questioning)
 The spot we played dress up... THE
 ATTIC!

Sally again runs back inside, up the stairs, pulls down the hatch in the hallway ceiling that brought down the attic stairs and climbed up.

11 INT.ATTIC.DAY 11

As soon as Sally reaches the top of the old stairs, she freezes.

All their favorite toys, dresses, CD's were neatly arranged all over the room.

A flood of memories comes over Sally.

12 FLASHBACK-INT-DAY 12

A montage of Clips of Sally and Katie together as little girls playing dress up, playing on a playground and in a pool plays.

13 PRESENT DAY-INT.ATTIC-DAY 13

Walking around the attic, she begins to take in all the objects that remind her of happier days with Katie. She touches their now small princess dresses, toys, stuffed animals and books.

In the center of it all lies a note, handwritten on a clean,white piece of paper, with a Beatles CD on top of it. Sally walks towards it and picks it up to read it.

NOTE
 (In Katie's Voice)
 Sally, I know we never went to that
 Beatles concert awhile back, even
 though they have always been our
 favorite band, so here is our
 favorite CD. I hope when you listen
 to it you can find it in your heart
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NOTE (cont'd)

to remember all the happier times,
not the fact that I'm gone. We had
our ups and downs but through it
all, you were my sister. What
happened wasn't your fault. The
choice was my own. Always remember
how amazing you really are, and
that you can do whatever you put
your mind to. Just never give up
like me. Goodbye Sally. I love you.

She looks up and pauses, taking the note in. Then, CD in hand, Sally turns and walks back down the stairs, making her way to a large STEREO SYSTEM in the living room.

14

INT.LIVING ROOM-DAY

14

Walking up to the player, she opens it, puts the disc inside and presses play.

Yesterday by The Beatles, sung by band member PAUL MCCARTNEY begins to play, as the camera pans out:

PAUL MCCARTNEY:

*Yesterday, all my troubles seemed
so far away.. now it looks as
though they're here to stay oh, I
believe in yesterday.. Why she had
to go, I don't know, she wouldn't
say. I said something wrong, now I
long for yesterday...*

FADE TO BLACK

THE END