

A LONG SLOW GOODBYE

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INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

CASSIE HARROW lays sideways on the bed in her modest bedroom. The sheets make up a large pile both on the floor and on the edge of the bed, where Cassie's feet lay one over the other, clutching like lovers. Her eyes wide open, she stares off into nothing, the tears still drying on her cheek. The light in the room is a dim orange coming from a small lamp near the door. All around the room, on dressers and tables, are cards set up for display. Condolence is the only word they share in common. The phone rings and the sound breaks a desperate silence. For the first time in what would have been hours, Cassie moves her head and glances at a cell phone lying on the nightstand. It vibrates and slowly moves in a circle around the surface of the table. Cassie turns back to the nothing and rolls over as the phone stops ringing.

The soft beep of a voice mail notification sounds in the room moments later. Cassie closes her eyes and sits up on the bed. She stares at a photo of an attractive white man smiling with his arms around her. A heavy sigh leaves her lips as she stands and picks up the phone. The screen displays "1 missed call from Mom". Cassie lays the phone back down and picks up a jacket from a chair in the opposite corner of the room. As she walks to the door, she slides her feet into a pair of slip-on athletic shoes, and slides the door partially open, then walks through into the hallway.

CUT TO

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A young woman, SARAH sits on a couch watching tv in a living room. Cassie comes down a set of stairs behind the couch, straightening her jacket. Sarah pauses the tv and turns her body around as if she was preparing to get up.

SARAH

Hey. You ok? Do you need anything?

CASSIE

No. I'm going out.

SARAH

Where?

CASSIE

I need some fresh air. I just...I don't want to be here right now.

Cassie turns away from Sarah and walks around the couch.

SARAH
Do you want me to come with?

Cassie stops, but doesn't turn.

CASSIE
No. Stay here. I'll be back in a
little while.

SARAH
Call me if you need anything.

Cassie moves to the door down a small set of steps, opens it, and steps out.

CUT TO

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Cassie walks up to a silver car and slides in after opening the driver's door. The headlights wash the front of the house with light as she backs up, turns around, and pulls away.

CUT TO

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

Cassie drives down dark country roads with barely any curves. She shuts her eyes and listens to the radio.

CU TRACK ECU: CASSIE'S FACE AS SHE DRIVES

CUT TO TITLE

INT. SMOKY BAR - NIGHT

CUT IN FROM
TITLE

Cassie Harrow sits in a booth in the back of a small bar, all alone except for a small glass in front of her. The amber liquid gently sloshes as she takes a sip and sets it down. A woman in her early 30's, her red hair seems matted and unkept. The whites of her eyes are a deep shade of pink, her lids barely able to contain the tears building up. One drops down her cheek. Cassie wipes it away slowly with her left hand, her right hand steady on the glass.

TRACK WS TO CU

Cassie closes her eyes for a moment and a painful memory jolts her back to the bar. No longer able to hold the tears at bay, they slowly stream down her face as she downs the rest of the glass.

From across the bar, Cassie catches a glimpse of DAVID HARROW, her brother, walking into the bar. He leans over the bar and trades words with the bartender, the sound of the bar too thick for the conversation to travel. The bartender points to Cassie and David pauses, letting out a slow nod to the bartender without taking his eyes off Cassie. She turns back to the empty glass on her table as he walks up to the booth and sits down. He stares right at her, a look of apprehension in his eyes. Cassie doesn't look up.

CASSIE
Did you find him?

DAVID
Cass, I don't know what to say. I mean...

CASSIE
(looking up)
Did you find him or not?

DAVID
No. There wasn't anything there.

CASSIE
He was there...

DAVID
Cass, maybe it's time to...

CASSIE
(yelling)
I fucking saw him David! He was there!

CASSIE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
He was there.

David leans back in his seat.

CROSSFADE TO

I/E. CASSIE'S CAR ON COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Cassie drives down a country road, the only car in any direction. The windows down, her hair flies in the air and quiet music plays in the stereo. As she comes around a bend, a white cross sticks out of the ground on the left side of the road. When she looks closer, a man in his 30's, PASCAL, stands next to the cross with a smile on his face.

CASSIE
Pascal? Pascal!

When Cassie turns back to the road, she is about to run off into the trees. She slams on the brakes and barely avoids hitting a tree. When the car comes to a stop, she composes herself and turns back to the cross, seeing no man. She gets out of the car and walks over to the cross, which stands directly in front of a thick forest, the leaves leaving traces of green in the night sky.

Cassie stands in front of the cross and looks around frantically.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Pascal! Where are you?! PASCAL!!

Cassie looks into the forest but can't see thru the trees. She takes a step back and pulls out her cellphone, dialing "David". After a moment, he picks up.

DAVID (V.O.)
Hey Cass. What...

CASSIE
He's here! I saw him standing there and then I think he ran off in the woods!

DAVID (V.O.)
Whoa, who are you talking about?
Where are you?

CASSIE
Pascal damn it! I saw him!

DAVID (V.O.)
Cass, Pascal is...

CASSIE
I'm gonna follow him.

DAVID (V.O.)
Cass! Where are you?

CASSIE
On Hurrican Shoals near Old
Peachtree.

DAVID (V.O.)
Do not move Cass. Do you undertand
me? I'll be there in 5 minutes.

CASSIE
I can find him David!

DAVID (V.O.)
Damn it Cass! Stay there!

CASSIE
Ok, ok. Hurry.

Cassie hangs up the phone and starts walking around in front of the trees. After a few moments of walking back and forth, Cassie steps into the trees and disappears.

WIDE SHOT: FOREST EDGE UNTIL DAVID'S CAR ARRIVES

EXT. ROADSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

David pulls up and parks on the side of the road next to the white cross. He turns the car slightly enough to shine light into the trees. As he gets out of the car, Cassie comes out of the trees and runs to him.

CASSIE
He's in there David! I know it!

DAVID
Ok, ok. Go down the street to
Harold's and wait for me.

CASSIE
What?

DAVID
You're in no condition to be
running off into the woods.

CASSIE
I'm not gonna leave him in there
David!

DAVID
I know. I swear I'll find him.
But I need you to do this for me.

Cassie takes a step back with a shocked look on her face.

CASSIE
You don't believe me.

DAVID
I didn't say that.

CASSIE
You didn't have to.

DAVID
I'm trying to help here but you're
not making any sense!

CASSIE
I saw Pascal David! I saw him!

DAVID
Pascal's gone Cass! You'll never
see him again!

Cassie takes a few more steps back and starts crying.
David walks to her and puts his hands on her upper arms and
looks her straight in the eyes.

DAVID (CONT'D)
God, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it
to come out like that. I promise,
If he's out here, I'll find him.
Ok?

Cassie nods her head and David walks her back to her car.
Gingerly, tears still slowly dripping down her face, she
climbs in and closes the door. Through the open window,
David leans in.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Go to Harold's and I'll meet you
there.

CASSIE
You don't believe he's out there.

DAVID
I told you I'd look and I will. I
promise.

Cassie wipes her face with her shirtsleeve and drives away
down the road.

David turns to the trees and hangs his head, shaking it slowly back and forth.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Shit...

CROSSFADE TO

INT. SMOKY BAR - CONTINUOUS

Cassie and David sit across from each other. Cassie, still a mess of red eyes and tears, wipes her face again. Her shirtsleeve wet with tears. David leans forward.

DAVID
People see things. You miss him.
Maybe you wanted him to be there so
bad that he was.

CASSIE
How could I just see him out there?
Right next to the cross? I'm not
crazy.

DAVID
He's been gone a long time now
Cass.

CASSIE
Has he?

DAVID
And you still wear the ring.

Cassie looks at her hand, gazing into a silver wedding band securely seated on her ringfinger. She turns it around her finger as David watches on. It shines in the dull light.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Look at what happened tonight. You
could have drove right off into the
woods. You could have died.

CASSIE
He was there.

DAVID
That's impossible Cass.

CASSIE
I don't know...

DAVID
 You need to let go. It wasn't your
 fault.

Cassie shakes her head and buries her face in her hands. Not crying, just trying to avoid looking at David. The waitress comes over to the booth and nods at the empty glass on the table. David motions for her to fill it up. The amber liquid glides into the glass as the light dances on it's surface. David stands up.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 I have to get home. Melinda is
 gonna wonder where I am.

He walks over to her and kisses her on top of her head.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 I love you. Call me if you need
 me.

Cassie nods through her hands and David walks off towards the door. Cassie pulls herself up and takes a drink from her glass. She lets it simmer in her throat for a moment and it momentarily stifles the tears.

Her head sinks into her forearms as she lays on the table.

PASCAL
 Je me suis ennuyé de vous, le bel.

Cassie slowly raises her head and sees the man from the side of the road sitting across from her.

CASSIE
 Pascal?

CROSSFADE TO

INT. SMALL PLANE - DAY

Cassie and Pascal sit in the cockpit of a small cessna style plane. Cassie flies, her eyes scanning the air in front of them, the ground passing by just out of view. Pascal writes something down on a notepad and then pulls out a camera. He points it at Cassie who turns to look and smiles. The flash barely lights up the day-bright cockpit and both laugh a little.

PASCAL
 Where are we going again?

CASSIE
I told you: it's a surprise.

PASCAL
If this is an attempt to get me to
speak to my brother, I'm going to
be very disappointed.

Cassie laughs.

CASSIE
No. It's nothing like that.
You'll love it. Trust me.

Pascal turns to look outside the window. Just then, the
plane shakes violently in the air. Pascal grabs onto the
dash and looks at Cassie, terrified.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Just a little turbulence.

PASCAL
I thought you said the weather was
supposed to be clear!

CASSIE
It is! It's just some rough air.

The plane takes a quick and violent dive, the tremors
vibrating everything in the plane.

PASCAL
Land. Please land the plane.

The plane continues to shake and shimmy in the air, Pascal
closes his eyes tight and Cassie begins flipping switches
and turning dials from the pilot's seat.

CASSIE
(to radio)
Briscoe control, this is November
One Two Zero Six Sierra. We're
experiencing heavy downbursts 2
miles north of marker One Four
Five. Request emergency landing
imme...

A loud boom interrupts Cassie and the planes dives fast.
Unable to control the plane, she leans back, clutching the
stick. Pascal, his eyes shut tight, breathes heavily under
the stress.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Microburst! The engine's cutting
out! I can't control it!

CASSIE (CONT'D)
(to radio)
Briscoe control, November One Two
Zero Six Sierra going down!

CASSIE (CONT'D)
(to Pascal)
Hang on!

PASCAL
Dieu nous aident!

CUT TO

INT. SMOKY BAR - CONTINUOUS

Cassie sits across the booth from Pascal. Cassie, covered in tears that have finally stopped, sits there in disbelief. Pascal smiles, clean and well-dressed.

PASCAL
Oui cherie. It is good to see you.
I have missed you.

CASSIE
How are you here?

PASCAL
I came back for you. How could I
not?

CASSIE
You were on that road!

PASCAL
Oui. I try to catch a glimpse of
you when I can. But this time, you
saw me. I did not think you would.

CASSIE
How long have you been watching me?

PASCAL
I never stopped.

CASSIE
But you...

PASCAL

Oui. But I had to see you again.

Cassie drops her head into her hands, wipes her face and comes back up again. Pascal still sits across from her, a small smile on his face.

CASSIE

You can't be here...

CUT TO

EXT. WOODS - DUSK

Cassie lies on the ground, facing away from the sound of crackling leaves and an orange glow. Her clothes are tattered and blood oozes from her forehead and left arm. She slowly tries to lift herself up but as she slides, she feels a pull on her legs. Laying face down across her ankles is Pascal. He has a deep red bloodstain on his neck and a large cut on his back.

Cassie immediately leans down and drags Pascal up to her. He doesn't move and his head lies limp in her arms.

CASSIE

(scratchy throat)

Pascal! Wake up!

Cassie slaps at his face but Pascal doesn't move. She gets to her feet, the orange glow from the crash becoming more prevalent as the sun falls beyond the trees. Pulling his weight onto her shoulder, Cassie lifts Pascal and begins walking toward a treeline. Beyond the trees, Cassie can see fast sweeps of light, headlights drifting across a highway.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Hold on. We're almost there.

Cassie takes the heavy steps towards the lights until finally, she crosses the tree line and stumbles into the open. To her right, a car sits with its lights on, a man standing next to the door, a cellphone in his hand, rushes over to Cassie as she falls into the ditch, clutching Pascal.

The sound drowns out and Cassie stares at Pascal's lifeless eyes that shook open from the fall into the ditch. Another car stops and a woman gets out. She runs over to Cassie and Pascal and yells something at everyone but Cassie can't hear it.

She stares into Pascal's eyes and then a tear drops out of her eye. And then another, and another, until they stream down her face.

CUT TO

INT. SMOKY BAR - CONTINUOUS

Cassie and Pascal just stare at each other. One unable to speak, the other a smile of relief on his face.

CASSIE
You're dead.

PASCAL
Oui.

CASSIE
I'm not...I'm not crazy?

PASCAL
Non.

PASCAL (CONT'D)
You torture yourself for what happened.

Cassie shakes her head a little bit and looks away from Pascal and into the amber in her glass. She closes her eyes.

CASSIE
It was my fault.

PASCAL
Non. There was nothing you could have done.

CASSIE
A better pilot would have pulled out of it.

PASCAL
Look at me cherie.

Cassie looks up at Pascal whose image seems to glow. Tears build in the corners of her eyes. The bar seems to grow silent.

PASCAL (CONT'D)
Do you love me?

CASSIE

Yes.

PASCAL

Do you trust me?

CASSIE

Yes.

PASCAL

Then close your eyes.

Cassie closes her eyes and all light and sound change around her.

CUT TO

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cassie opens her eyes to find herself standing next to Pascal, dressed the same as the bar but in a different place: their apartment. On the couch in front of them, different versions of Cassie and Pascal sit together, cuddling while watching the tv.

The Cassie from the bar looks at the Pascal from the bar and attempts to talk but nothing comes out. Pascal looks at her and puts his finger to his mouth, signaling quiet.

Meanwhile, the Cassie and Pascal on the couch re-adjust themselves as Alphaville plays on the tv in front of them.

CASSIE

So he's a secret agent?

PASCAL

Oui.

CASSIE

In a future version of Paris?

PASCAL

Oui.

CASSIE

But it looks like the sixties.

PASCAL

Oui. That is the cleverness of it all le bel.

CASSIE
Seems kind of stupid if you ask me.

PASCAL
Fortunately for the world, Jean-Luc Godard did not ask you.

Cassie grabs a pillow and hits Pascal with it.

CASSIE
Ass.

PASCAL
When are we leaving tomorrow?

CASSIE
I filed the flightplan this morning. We take off at 4:30.

PASCAL
And where are we going?

CASSIE
It's a surprise.

PASCAL
Tell me.

CASSIE
No.

Pascal picks up the remote and pauses the movie. With a quick movement, he roles himself under Cassie and looks her in the eyes. They smile at each other for a moment, then their lips slowly meet in a deep kiss.

After a few moments, they pull away and look at each other again.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
I'm not gonna tell you.

PASCAL
Merde.

Pascal reaches up and pulls Cassie into him and they kiss again.

Meanwhile, the Cassie and Pascal from the bar still stand in the room. Cassie shakes with sadness, tears pouring from her eyes, her arms wrapped around her chest. She closes her eyes and the sounds and lights change again.

CUT TO

INT. SMOKY BAR - CONTINUOUS

Cassie opens her eyes again when she realizes they are no longer in the apartment. Pascal sits across from her, unmoved from where he was before. She wipes the tears from her face with the same shirtsleeve.

CASSIE
How did you do that?

PASCAL
It does not matter.

CASSIE
Why would you want me to see that?

PASCAL
Because that is how you should remember me. That is how you should remember us. Your memories should be of love, not of horror.

CASSIE
I can't...

PASCAL
Yes you can.

Cassie looks at Pascal with desperation. She reaches her hands across the table as if attempting to pull herself through the table and into Pascal. Pascal pulls back away from her.

CASSIE
Stay with me! You're already here, you don't have to leave!

PASCAL
I must go. I am here to tell you that you will never be alone. I will always be with you. In your heart. But you must let me go. I am in a better place.

Cassie nods, tears still cover her face as she pulls her arms back across the table and into her lap. Pascal pulls off his wedding ring and puts it down on the table near Cassie's glass then stands up. He leans across the table and kisses Cassie on the forehead. She closes her eyes.

PASCAL (CONT'D)

We will be together again. But not
now. Je t'aime.

Cassie opens her eyes and Pascal is gone. She looks around the bar, frantic for just a moment. The glint of Pascal's ring catches her eyes and she turns back to the table. She brings her left hand up and takes her own ring off. It catches light from every direction as she rolls it in her hand. Her hand closes on the ring and Cassie closes her eyes.

CASSIE

We'll be together again. I love
you Pascal.

Cassie opens her eyes and softly places her ring on top of Pascal's. They sit on top of each other, basking in identical light. She gets up from the table and walks out of the bar. The rings sit together on the table, always together.

FADE TO BLACK

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