

A Mother's Grief.

Written by

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INT - BEDROOM - DAY.

JACK a man (in his 30'S) sits on bed, looks around. Room full of Posters/LP's, a Guitar, football bedding and detritus of a young man.

ANNA (MUM)  
I thought I heard you

ANNA aged 55 (Jack and Lucy's mum) pokes her head around the door.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
I can always find you in your  
bedroom. You must spend half your  
life in this room

Jack looks towards his mum but doesn't say anything just takes in the room.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
I'll be downstairs.

Jack walks down the stairs.

INT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Anna is sitting on a large sofa, the Jack joins his mum on the sofa, Gogglebox style, Anna seems to be looking at the TV, it isn't on, the camera is the TV screen.

Jack's wearing a crew neck coloured jumper, it's not bright, maybe a RAF/Petrol Blue maybe a Burgundy deep red and Jeans.

ANNA  
Hello Son - I'm glad you've turned up, I know I saw you yesterday but I've missed you. How are you? You look well, still wearing that jumper I bought for you, what was it? 2 Christmases ago? I knew it would suit you, that colour's good on you.

Anna takes a sip of an alcoholic drink.

She cheers up.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I always liked buying you the odd bit of clothing, you never were one for clothes much so I always felt I should top up your wardrobe. Unless it was one of your Football Kits you really didn't care what you wore. I, I didn't get much of a chance in the last few years, once you'd grown up, I mean, and obviously not since then.

Anna is tearful

ANNA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I just get so upset; I miss you. I promise myself that I'd only think happy thoughts when I see you, it's only occasionally, but I feel so sad when I do.

Mum takes another sip.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Change the subject - I saw Mrs. Harding yesterday; do you remember her? Leanne's Mum, from your class at school, Angela I think her name is, it was a real surprise to bump into her around here, we chatted for quite a while and we're going to meet up occasionally, just like all those years ago when we waited outside the school gates for you and Leanne. Do you remember her? You went Trick or Treating with her, a whole group of you, only houses we knew, but you fell in the Pond on the Green, always mucking about you lot were. You all used to dare each other to go and knock on the Sheridan's door, that big old house on Dalmeny, even going past it, you all used to run. Do you remember?" I bet you bump into all sorts of people where you are. Do you?

ANNA (CONT'D)

I do wonder who you bump into?  
Let me guess!

She takes another sip.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Mrs. Perkins, has just joined you. Mark's Mum, have you seen her? I saw her a few weeks ago, she didn't look well. She hadn't aged well and there was obviously something seriously wrong with her. Of course You remember her, you used to play Football with Mark at Cubs, School everywhere, always kit to wash. Yellow kit for the school, blue for Cubs and it was red wasn't it for that team round the park you used to play for, what were they called? Alexandra Park Utd that was it. Always seemed to lose every game, you'd come home all muddy and down. Then 10 minutes later all forgotten and back out again.

(pause)

Claire, that's her name

(long long pause)

Do you see your dad?

I know, I know, I ask you every time

(pause)

Mum takes another sip.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You should. It wasn't all his fault the way things turned out between us. I know he wishes he had had a better relationship with you. You have, well, time now, to at least to get to know him again. You were the apple of his eye when you were small and you were always so happy together, do you remember the way he used to

(Pause)

Try and make some kind of relationship with him" It's so quiet here now, I feel so much

(MORE)

## ANNA (CONT'D)

more at peace with him, and the way things turned out, one day I hope you'll find some peace, you always seemed so angry, obviously I wish things were as they were, before then, and you were still, in my life, but I think I've come to terms with everything, in my own way, in my little world"

(Pause)

Ok, ok, I don't want to spend today just talking about him. I only have these short times with you, I don't want to argue. Shall we put the TV on? Do you watch TV? "Are you reading? You used to love a good book, History, Politics and of course anything to do with Football.

She reaches out to pick up the Remote Control, which is on the sofa between them, closer to him than her and handles it, turns it over and back again as though it's a completely foreign object she's never seen before.

(Pause)

She takes another sip.

## ANNA

We won't talk about where we are, it's just upsets me, I just want to feel you close to me, your presence, I'm happy just sitting by you, hoping you're well." They sit alongside each other quietly, no words between them, just silence.  
(30 seconds? 45 seconds? 1 minute?)  
I'll be with you soon. I don't want to be here on my own.

Jack fades away.

She rises and goes to a record player. She chooses a record and puts it on the turntable. She's swaying to the Music, she's tearful and unsteady on her feet She looks at his picture/funeral card on the sideboard, picks it up and switches the record on. As the record plays, she's holding the funeral card and tearfully moves slowly to the music. She's reaching out to her glass and takes sips as she moves.

I'll be with you soon. Soon

LUCY

Mum? You in? It's me Lucy. Just  
popped in to see if you're ok

LUCY 25/30 walks in and sees her Mum. She turns the music off  
and holds her Mum.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I miss him too. I'm here for you.

FADE OUT