

Mercy
by
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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MARY LEWIS, 67, sweet-faced woman, holds a phone up to her ear, she steepes a cup of tea on the counter.

MARY
Twenty seven Oakfield ave.
(nods)
Ok, we'll see you soon.

She places the phone on the receiver, picks up the tea, makes her way to the --

LIVING ROOM

AARON LEWIS, 69, face haggard and drawn, his body broken down. He sits on a worn out love seat that has also seen better days.

He glances at Mary as she approaches.

MARY (CONT'D)
You really want to do this?

He acknowledges her with a faltering smile, as his bottom lip quivers.

She holds the cup to his lips. He leans forward, takes a sip, then tilts his head back.

AARON
You're a good woman Mary Lewis.

MARY
And you're a good man Aaron Lewis.

She makes herself comfortable next to Aaron, he holds a photo album.

MARY (CONT'D)
Well let's take a trip down memory lane.

He gives her the album, his hands shake vigorously. Mary flips it open, points to the first picture.

MARY (CONT'D)
Ahh there you are with Suzie.

Aaron smiles, he tries to take the photo out of the sleeve... but struggles.

AARON
Help me dear... please.

She takes it out.

PHOTO

A young good looking Aaron, 22, stands proudly with his saxophone.

FLASHBACK

A dingy smoke filled dance hall. YOUNGER AARON is center stage, giving it his all with his Sax.

MARY (V.O.)

My, my, those were the days. Aaron
"the lungs" Lewis, they called you
and all the girls wanted you.

AARON (V.O.)

But I only wanted you.

YOUNGER MARY dances solo in front, she looks very glamorous. Keeps eye contact with Aaron.

BACK TO SCENE

MARY

And you got me.

Mary takes him by the hand, she holds ever so gently.

AARON

I was the best Mary, the best. Nobody
could play like me... Nobody. Me
and Suzie went everywhere together.

MARY

Oh I know, she was your baby.

AARON

Now she's a dust collector.

Aaron leans over to grab his tea, he struggles as he shakes, then throws himself back in anger.

AARON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Mary. You don't deserve
any of this. The pitiful man I've
become. I can't even pick up my own
tea.

MARY

I'll get it dear.

AARON

I know you will Mary, you always do.

She puts the photo down, picks up the tea, holds it up to his mouth.

MARY

Take a good drink now, it'll help.
Tea is great medicine.

He gulps it down, nearly finishing it.

AARON

Aahh Mary, I don't deserve you, and
you don't deserve this.

A tear starts to trickle down her face.

MARY

Deserve what Aaron? You're a great
husband, a terrific father and a
hard worker.

AARON

Was, Mary, was. Not anymore.

She sighs heavily, picks up the photo album, flips through.
Aaron stops her and points.

AARON (CONT'D)

That one.

Mary takes it out of the sleeve.

PHOTO

Aaron, in his late thirties, rock climbing. He looks to be
enjoying himself. Mary stands next to him looking very proud.

FLASHBACK

YOUNGER AARON tightens his harness, he's fully equipped as
he puts one foot on a rock, he stops to give Mary a kiss and
then proceeds.

AARON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I was the master of the mountain.

MARY (V.O.)

No mountain could stop you.

BACK TO SCENE

AARON

I could have done Everest, I would
have done Everest. Do you hear me
Mary? I would have done Everest!

MARY

I know dear, I know. I was happy watching from the ground.

They both share a tender smile and for that moment whatever it was, seems to be forgotten.

MARY (CONT'D)

Do you want me to stop?

AARON

No, keep going.

They exchange a kiss, then Mary turns the page. Tears begin to stream down Aaron's face.

AARON (CONT'D)

You know all the time I ask myself; Did I spite God? I mean I love my family; I did everything I thought was right, Yet I'm cursed with this... disease.

MARY

It's not fair dear. Not fair at all.

AARON

Look at the man I was.

He grabs a photo out of the sleeve but struggles to hold it with two twisted hands.

PHOTO

Aaron, in his late forties, plays baseball with his son.

FLASHBACK

YOUNGER AARON watches on as his SON, 7, runs energetically back and forth across the lawn. He stops for a second, Aaron fakes a throw. His son moves, as Aaron laughs lovingly.

He quickly throws the ball, his son keeps his eye on it, holds out his mitt, catches it. Aaron raises his arms in the air with excitement, runs over and picks up his son as proud as a father could be.

BACK TO SCENE

AARON (CONT'D)

I don't want them to see me like this anymore. I want them to remember me for the man I was.

He lowers his head onto her shoulder, she holds him.

AARON (CONT'D)

No more Mary, no more. You do
understand. We can't live like this.
You need your life back.

Aaron trembles as he wraps his arms around Mary. She holds
him closer. Tears flow like waterfalls. He raises his head
and looks deeply into her eyes.

MARY

I don't understand, I have no life
without you. I wish I could feel
what you feel. I'm so sorry.

AARON

Sshhh don't ever be sorry Mary.
Life could not prepare me for such
love... love could not prepare me
for such life.

Suddenly he drops onto her chest.

Sirens wail, followed by a loud bang on the door.

MARY

No more Aaron, no more.

ENTRYWAY

The door busts open as TWO OFFICERS enter, they storm through
the house. One goes to the kitchen, the other to the --

LIVING ROOM

The Officer stands in the entryway of the Living Room,
followed by his partner. He holds a container in his hand,
shows it to the other Officer... it reads : Cyanide

They watch on as she glances up at the Officers, looks back
at the table and reaches for the tea. The photo album falls
to the floor and opens at their wedding picture as we...

FADE OUT: