She Knows Tom

Ву

Will Ball

INT. HOUSE, ALLIE'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Faint rays of sunlight beam through a frost covered window. They illuminate a little girl's beroom and lay gently on several pieces of eighties paraphernalia.

Canvas keds lay on the floor. Posters of Jem and the Holograms scale the walls. My Little Pony figurines peek out of a toy box.

Beneath her Smurf bedsheets, ALLIE (6) lays wide awake. She hugs a TEDDY BEAR dressed as a school teacher in her arms and talks to an invisible friend.

ALLIE

I did just like you said Tom. Nobody saw me. Not even Maxi.

The bedroom DOORKNOB turns. A frizzy haired woman with gaudy makeups pokes her head inside the room. This is DEB (40's).

Allie quickly conceals the bear beneath her bedsheets. She pretends to be asleep.

DEB

Allie baby? Are you awake?

ALLIE

No.

Allie pretends to snore. It's obvious that she's faking it.

Deb enters the rooms and sits on the bed.

DEB

You silly goose. Why are you up so early?

ALLIE

I was talking.

DEB

Talking to who? It's six AM in the morning.

ALLIE

Tom.

CONTINUED: 2.

DEB

(sighs)

I thought we took care of this. Tom isn't real baby. He's part of your imagination.

ALLIE

No he's not. He's smart, he lives in space, and he talks to me.

DEB

Then what does he tell you?

ALLIE

Things.

DEB

Well I'll make sure to say hello if I see him.

(beat)

Baby, I have to go to work now.

ALLIE

No! No! No! No! No! No!

DEB

Stop it. I'll only be gone for a week.

ALLIE

But you won't come back.

DEB

Why would you say something like that?

ALLIE

Because it's true. Tom told me.

DEB

Well he's wrong. You're wrong. I know you're scared. I am too, a little. But everything's going to be just fine. Maybe I'll bring you back a souvenir.

ALLIE

I don't want one!

Allie folds her arms.

CONTINUED: 3.

DEB

Come on Allie. This isn't easy for me either.

ALLIE

No! I don't want you to go!

DEB

Stop it baby. Give me a hug and kiss goodbye.

Deb tries to hug her daughter, but Allie pulls away.

ALLIE

I don't want you to go! I don't want you to go!

DEB

Baby please? You don't know how difficult you're making this.

Allie throws a full on temper tantrum. Her fist and feet bang the bed.

ALLIE

No! No! No! No! No! No!

DEB

(calling out into another

room)

Andrew!

ANDREW (O.S)

What?

DEB

Come here. I need you.

ANDREW (17) lumbers into the room. He wears a David Bowie t-shirt and sports a mullet.

ANDREW

Yes?

DEB

Allie's throwing a fit and I have to go. Can you take care of your sister until your Dad comes back?

ANDREW

Kay.

CONTINUED: 4.

DEB

Please be good for your father. Both of you. I love you very much.

Deb hugs her son and kisses him on the head. She hugs Allie, but she doesn't reciprocate. Deb tears up.

DEB

See you in a week.

INT. CAR - EARLY MORNING

Deb rides passenger while CHARLES (40's) drives on a highway. Both are bundled in sweaters and sweat pants despite the tropical vegetation which whizzes by the vehicle.

CHARLES

At least you didn't have to pack much.

DEB

I feel really bad about Allie this morning. I hope she's okay.

CHARLES

Kids throw tantrums when they're stressed. That's just what they do. But you can't let it distract you.

DEB

You're right. Heck, if I'm worried, I can't imagine what Christa's feeling.

CHARLES

I'm sure all of her students will be watching.

Deb suddenly realizes something and panics.

DEB

Damn it! Charles, we have to go back.

CHARLES

What? Why?

DEB

I left Christa's gift at home. I'm sorry. I could have sworn I put it on the living room table so that I wouldn't forget.

CONTINUED: 5.

CHARLES

Okay, but we've got to make this quick. God forbid they leave without you.

Charles steers the car into a U-turn.

INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A metal dog CAGE sits amongst pieces of living room furniture. Inside, a yellow lab BARKS uncontrollably and walks in circles. Something is wrong and the dog senses it.

INT. HOUSE, ANDREW'S ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Andrew lays in his bed and listens to music. Large EARPHONES hug his ears and connect to a primitive looking discman.

INT. HOUSE, ALLIE'S BEDROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Mesmerized, Allie crawls out of bed with the TEDDY BEAR in hand. She walks out of her room and into-

INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Allie walks down the hallway as if she were in a trance. She enters the-

INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Allie walks towards the dog CAGE. The lab inside is still antsy and continues to bark.

Allie lifts the LOCK on the cage and the dog bursts free.

The dog dashes through the SCREEN FRONT DOOR and runs blindly into the suburban street outside.

INT. CAR - MORNING

Charles and Deb speed through a residential neighborhood. Deb puts her hands in front of the vehicle's vents.

DEB

Can't it get any warmer in here?
I'm freezing.

CONTINUED: 6.

CHARLES

Let me see what I can do.

Charles tinkers with the temperature KNOBS, periodically checking the road.

CHARLES

(continued)

You don't think they'll delay lift-

A yellow lab darts in front of the car.

DEB

Maxi!

Charles looks up and slams on the brakes. The car SCREECHES as it begins to skid uncontrollably.

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

Fifty or so men work side by side in a large room filled with commotion and monitors. They each type frantically into computers and talk into headsets.

CARL (30's) is one of these number crunching nerds. He wears geeky glasses and hangs up a nearby PHONE.

Carl turns around and calls out to BRANDON (50's). Brandon stands at the back of the room behind a desk that towers over everyone. He looks important and in command.

CARL

Telephone for you sir. Line three.

BRANDON

Who is it?

CARL

A nurse from Riddle Memorial Hospital. She says it's about Deb.

Brandon picks up a nearby PHONE.

BRANDON

Thank you.

(into phone)

Director Brandon Jones here.

(beat)

An accident? How bad is she? (beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 7.

BRANDON (cont'd)

Jesus Christ. Okay. Thank you.

Brandon hangs up the phone.

BRANDON

Carl, I want you to get Judith on the phone asap.

CARL

Yes sir!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATE MORNING

Deb lays in a hospital bed unconscious and badly bruised. An IV drips next to her as several medical machines BEEP throughout the room.

Through the window of her room, there is a docked SPACE SHUTTLE in the distance, ready for liftoff.

There is a TV on in the room. It is tuned in to CNN. An ANNOUNCER describes the scene outside the hospital window.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

T-minus ten, nine, eight, seven, six...

Sparks ignite and smoke billows beneath the shuttle outside.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We have main engines start. Four, three, two, one and liftoff.

The shuttle slowly begins its ascension into the sky.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Liftoff of the 25th space shuttle mission and it has cleared the tower. I repeat the Challenger space shuttle has cleared the tower and has begun its journey into space.

FADE OUT.