

THE LAST GOODBYE
IS HARD TO SAY

Story

By

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SCREENPLAY

By

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Based on a

Three-minute film script

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And with the assistance of

The Media Studies and
Production class of
James Watt College, 2010/2011

SHOOTING DATES, 10 Nov 2010 - 16 Jan 2011

Revised draft, 21 March 2011

BLACK SCREEN: We hear a man's voice speaking LIGHTLY.

DANNY (V.O)

The human mind works in mysterious ways.
In complex situations, we are governed by
instinct feelings. Feelings of remorse,
hurt and loss.

FADE IN:

1 INT. ROOM

1

The room is lit vaguely, harnessed by a small hint of darkness. We see three unoccupied swivel chairs. All of a sudden, an averagely dressed man staggers unhurriedly towards the seats; he twirls round and planks himself down on the middle one.

The man is in his early forties, rather thin, LONG JET BLACK HAIR. He has a two-way mixture of a JOHNNY DEPP/CHRIS CORNELL look about him; we come to know him as 'DANNY HOWARD.' As he sits down, we see him carrying a BOTTLE OF ALCOHOL and a PLASTIC TUMBLER. He throws back his long hair and silently looks down as he pours himself a drink. He takes a drink and reacts to its aftertaste by moving himself forward and grunting.

2 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

2

In amongst the darkness all we see is a straight-faced MALE DOCTOR, MID-TWENTIES, heavy-bearded, chunky in weight.

DOCTOR

Danny, you need to stop
blaming yourself and let go!

A TITLE CARD FADES ONTO THE SCREEN:

THE LAST GOODBYE IS HARD TO SAY

A guilt-riddled DANNY looks at the doctor with a serious expression on his face.

2 CONTINUED:

2

DANNY
Let go, let go.

He points his index finger.

DANNY (CONT'D)
You look me in the eyes and you tell
me how it feels to lose the best
friends you've ever had in the world.

DANNY sighs and shakes his head. The doctor tries to understand.

DOCTOR
I'm afraid that I can't, but as
your doctor, I have to help you!

DANNY
They come to see me at night you know.
Telling me the exact same spiel as what
you do.

DOCTOR
Who comes to see you Danny?

DANNY
Caroline and Philip!

DANNY pauses; he tries to speak, cracking under the strain he tenses his face and buries it in the palms of his hands.

DANNY (CONT'D)
It's.
(shaking his head)
Aw, I can never forgive myself for this!

He sobs. He then takes a minute before composing himself back to normalcy.

FADE IN:

5 CONTINUED:

5

JULIE

Don't you honey me. Where were
you last night?

DANNY ashamedly looks around the office. JULIE looks
directly at him; she shakes her head.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I might have guessed!

DANNY

I'm sorry!

JULIE

That's is the problem with you and
this job, it's like a love affair to
you. All you do is work, work and work

She reaches into her handbag and produces out a set of
keys; she puts them onto the desk. DANNY looks down at
them.

DANNY

What are those?

JULIE

The keys to your flat, I just can't take it
anymore Danny. You spend all your time here,
you've become so obsessive in trying to make
things right and as a result of that, it has
came between us.

She tries to fight back tears.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Goodbye Danny!

JULIE walks to the office door. An emotional DANNY
walks round the desk.

5 CONTINUED:

5

DANNY

Wait, come on now, don't be like that.
can't we talk about this!

JULIE stops at the door; she turns round. DANNY stops.

JULIE

(shakes her head)
There is nothing
to talk about!

JULIE opens the door and walks out. The door closes. A sad looking DANNY puts the palm of his right onto his forehead and sighs. He turns and walks back round his desk and sits down, he looks at the documents and then at the keys.

He slants to the left, we hear a drawer opening. Inside the drawer, we see a BOTTLE OF WHISKEY, half of it left. A PLASTIC GLASS accompanies the bottle.

DANNY eyes it up!

DANNY. (O.S)

(He sighs)

I might as well!

He picks up the GLASS and puts it onto the desk. He reaches in and picks up the bottle; he unscrews the CAP and fills the glass up, to a HALF MEASURE, he the picks up the glass and takes a drink. Feeling satisfied, he relaxingly sits back and swirls his chair round.

6 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

6

Early NIGHTFALL covers an UPPER CLASS residential structure. We hear the sound of a WOMAN'S VOICE!

WOMAN (V.O)

It's for the best, he didn't
give a damn about you.

7 INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

7

We see an upset JULIE sitting on a couch; she is being comforted by her friend CAROLINE. Early-twenties, bespectacled, BLACK HAIR, she appears to be dressed to go out.

JULIE

(tearful)

The thing is, in the midst of what's happened. I still love him.

CAROLINE

I know you do!

JULIE

It's just that he's never around. His only focus is his work. Don't get me wrong, he does work hard. When comes home, which is on a rare occasion, he says he's tired and goes to bed.

CAROLINE'S boyfriend PHILIP comes into the room, MID-TWENTIES, tall in height, criminally handsome. With him, he is carrying his and CAROLINE'S five-year-old child CHARLIE in his arms.

PHILIP

Well that's Charlie and I ready.

CAROLINE looks at PHILIP and makes facial gesture to suggest, it's a bad time. PHILIP recognises. JULIE embarrassingly wipes her tears away, she turns round.

JULIE

I'm sorry!

PHILIP

Its okay!

JULIE looks at CHARLIE and smiles.

7 COTNINUED:

7

JULIE

Hey buddy, where's
mummy and daddy taking
you tonight?

PHILIP

Well we thought we'd go get something
to eat and then catch a film.

JULIE reacts astoundingly; she puts the palm of her
hand onto the wee man's cheek.

JULIE

Have fun!

CAROLINE

You should come with us.

PHILIP

Yeah that's a great idea.

JULIE

(shakes her head)

No, its okay. I'm
going to take a bath
and have an early night.

CAROLINE gets up.

CAROLINE

Okay. We won't be that late!

CAROLINE puts her jacket on; she leans forward and
gives JULIE a cuddle.

JULIE

Have a good night!

PHILIP picks up his car keys from the BREAKFAST BAR. He
goes to JULIE and gives her a cuddle.

7 CONTINUED:

7

PHILIP
See you soon.

JULIE
Take care!

CAROLINE, PHILIP and CHARLIE leave. JULIE on her own sits back; she looks at her MOBILE PHONE on the table and takes a minute to think. She sighs!

8 INT. MODERN OFFICE -- NIGHT

8

We see that the WHISKEY BOTTLE is empty. DANNY feeling a little tipsy takes the last full measure and clumsily sits it right the edge of the desk. Suddenly, the glass falls off.

A not too concerned DANNY ignores it. All of a sudden, the MOBILE phone on the desk LIGHTS UP and VIBRATES. DANNY looks at the screen; on it, we see the name JULIE.

He picks up the phone up and answers it.

DANNY
Hello!

JULIE (V.O)
We need to talk!

DANNY
What is there to talk about?

JULIE (V.O)
(sobbing)
I don't want to lose you.

DANNY
I don't want to lose you either babe.

JULIE
I'm staying at Philip and Caroline's.

8 CONTINUED:

8

DANNY

Do you want me to come round?

JULIE (V.O)

Okay!

DANNY

I'll be there in
twenty minutes.

JULIE (V.O)

I'll see you then!

DANNY finishes the phone call; he smiles and then puts the phone down. We see his car keys sitting at the edge of the desk. DANNY looks at them from a faded background; he grabs them. He stands up and puts his jacket on; he walks round his desk and goes out the office door. The door closes slowly.

All of a sudden, we hear the sound of a crash occurring; followed by the sound of sirens.

FADE OUT, and then.

9 INT. OFFICE

9

DANNY'S grim faced DOCTOR speaks.

DOCTOR

I've got to say Danny, this
isn't looking good. Seeing
and hearing voices. I think
we need to extend your sessions.

DANNY sits back and puts his arms behind his head.

DANNY

(sighs)

Aye, I know!

9 CONTINUED:

9

He comes forward and brings his arms forwards and using his wrist to cover his eyes. He lets out a short wail; he then moves his wrists away from his eyes and slams his left fist on the table.

DOCTOR

How are you sleeping?

DANNY

(shakes his head)

I'm not; the pain will not go away!

DOCTOR thinks for a minute. He reaches down and opens a drawer. He places two pills on the desk.

DOCTOR

Take these, they will help you sleep.

DANNY picks them up.

DANNY

Thanks doc!

DOCTOR

Same time tomorrow?

DANNY nods.

DANNY

Yeah. Thanks again.

DOCTOR

You're welcome!

DANNY leaves the room.

10 INT. ROOM -- DAY

10

We see the three swivel chairs sitting close together.

10 CONTINUED:

10

DANNY who is carrying a bottle of STILL WATER staggers to them; he swings round and planks himself down on the middle one. He looks down at the pills, he then puts into his mouth. He opens the bottle of water and drinks from it.

He looks down at the floor in front of him. Suddenly, we see PHILIP. He comes and sits down beside DANNY. He puts his hand onto DANNY'S shoulder. DANNY takes another drink of water.

PHILIP

Is this the way it's going to be from now on Danny, sitting here night after night, wallowing in self-pity.

DANNY

Looks like it!

PHILIP

Do you think its going to solve everything make things better?

DANNY

(straight-faced)

Believe me it does, for a wee while anyway.

PHILIP

Well believe me pal, it doesn't, it makes everything worse.

DANNY

(passively)

Huh!

PHILIP

Danny. Look at yourself, you've got The rest of your like to look forward and honestly. Things will get better in time.

10 CONTINUED:

10

DANNY

Aye. A long, long time, especially
after this.

He shakes his head!

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'll never get over this!

PHILIP

Come on Danny! Wake up. You've
done nothing wrong, none of
this is your fault.

DANNY

(shouting)

Of course it's my fault, its
all my fault, its just work,
work, work with me. Isn't any
wonder why Jules left me?

He pauses and then.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(mellowed)

Of course, it's my fault
Philip; all of it!

CAROLINE enters the room and sits down on the last
available seat.

DANNY

Oh Caroline, I'm so sorry!

CAROLINE

Oh Danny, stop punishing yourself, none
of this is your fault, you've done nothing
wrong. Stop blaming yourself.

10 CONTINUED:

10

DANNY

I'm just so sorry, I can't help
the way I feel. It just hurts
so much.

(shakes his head)

DANNY (CONT'D)

If I hadn't gotten into that
car, you would all be alive
today. I didn't mean to fall
asleep at the wheel, I didn't
mean to cause that crash. I
can only remember it vaguely.

11 EXT. DANNY'S CAR -- NIGHT

11

DANNY'S narration continues. We see the mangled wreckage
of his car, the front of the car is severely crushed
inwards. Smoke is seen coming from the bonnet of the
vehicle, the windscreen is completely obliterated.

12 INT. CAR - DRIVER'S SEAT -- NIGHT

12

A DAZED and injured DANNY eyes open, he looks around and
sees what has happened around him. He opens the driver's
door and gets out slowly, he grunts at a wound he has
sustained.

13 EXT. CRASH SITE - NIGHT

13

From DANNY'S point of view, we see CAROLINE'S bloodied
dead body lying on its stomach on the hood of her and
PHILIP'S CAR. PHILIP'S corpse is sitting in the driver's
seat; it appears as though he smashed his face into the
steering wheel at the point of impact. A trail of blood
from his ears is seen.

He finally sees the lifeless body of CHARLIE who is
lying face down on the GEARBOX section of the vehicle.

13 CONTINUED:

13

DANNY instantly sobers up; he widens his eyes and touches his forehead with the palm of his hand, he breathes heavily.

DANNY (CONT'D) V.O

Till I came to. When I got out and walked towards the car and I saw you two and Charlie in the wreckage, dead, it just tore me apart.

14 INT. ROOM

14

DANNY tearfully continues, as CAROLINE and PHILIP carefully listen.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I can't believe I killed my best friends and their little boy. You were the best friends I ever had and like Julie, now you're gone, because of me and because my life revolved around that BLOODY JOB!!!

He takes a short pause, and then!

DANNY (CONT'D)

You were like a brother to me Philip, maybe I just don't want you to go.

PHILIP

We've been here every night for three weeks now, but we can't be here all the time, we have a son to take care of.

CAROLINE

He's right, we have to go and get Charlie. I'm sure Julie will come back. Give it time, she still loves you.

14 CONTINUED:

14

PHILIP

Of course she will, in fact
I know she will.

CAROLINE

Listen to Philip, you know
he's always right.

DANNY

I'm just going to miss you's
more than anything. I know
Charlie is waiting for his
mum and dad, but I can't be
selfish anymore, I just love
you's so much.

PHILIP

God, we love you so much Danny,
we're going to miss you too but
your not to blame, we don't blame
you. Never have, never will!

CAROLINE

Put the bottle away now Danny,
No more worries. You're going to
have a great life. We need to go
and get Charlie now.

A short moment later, the three of them stand up. DANNY hugs CAROLINE; he turns round and hugs the towering PHILIP. CAROLINE and PHILIP at the same time walk away. DANNY is more relaxed as he watches his friends leave. They stop and turn their heads towards DANNY for one last look and for the last time.

CAROLINE

Goodbye Danny!

PHILIP

Farewell my friend!

The ETHEREAL images of CAROLINE and PHILIP fade away!

14 CONTINUED:

14

DANNY waves them off; he sits back down and takes a poignant moment.

DANNY
(*Softly*)
Bye!

FADE OUT:

THE END CREDIT sequence begins.

THE END