

Simryn Fenby

Say Nothing

EXT. PARK - LATE AFTERNOON

ANDREW (late 20s), dressed for summer, sits at a park bench with JESSICA (late 20s), who's smiling in a beautiful dress. She talks excitedly beside him.

JESSICA

And I already told my mom which venue we wanted. She was so excited! And wait until you meet my aunt Denise, she gets so funny when she drinks.

A FIREWORK ignites across the park. It sounds like GUNFIRE as Andrew JUMPS.

JESSICA

(concerned)

Baby, you okay?

ANDREW

Huh? Yeah, just surprised me.

Jessica looks around the park and LAUGHS.

JESSICA

Guess we've gotta get to the barbecue huh? Can't miss fourth of July!

ANDREW

Yeah...the barbecue.

JESSICA

Do you think we can put Denise with your cousins?

ANDREW

What?

JESSICA

My aunt...with Dave and Sarah?

He stares at her blankly.

JESSICA

For the seating at the wedding. Andrew, come on!

ANDREW

Sorry, must have been elsewhere.

Andrew looks out at the park as Jessica watches him.

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JESSICA

Listen, I get it. You've only been home a week. But you're back now. It's time for me, and the wedding, and for our life here. Right?

Andrew keeps looking out, blank. Jessica gently shifts his face to look at her.

JESSICA

Right?

ANDREW

Right. I'm here with you, babe.

She smiles.

JESSICA

And you're okay?

ANDREW

Of course. I'm always okay. The wedding. Denise, the drunk, sounds good.

Jessica LAUGHS and gets up. She pulls him up after her.

JESSICA

Okay, let's get going. And let's hope you start listening better once we're married.

She grabs his hand and they walk through the park as she starts to CHAT about the seating chart.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A small but tidy bedroom with ANDREW and JESSICA fast asleep. Andrew twitches in his sleep and lets out a WHIMPER. He twists the sheets around him. Close up on his face as FIREWORKS sound. Sweat beads on his forehead.

JASON (V.O.)

(urgent)

Andrew, go, it's okay man, it's gonna be okay.

FIREWORKS turn to GUNFIRE as Andrew jolts up in bed. He PANTS, catches his breath and looks around at a calm bedroom.

He looks down to Jessica sleeping peacefully.

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Andrew gets out of bed silently and opens the bedside cabinet to pull a gun out. He looks at Jessica once more to ensure she's still asleep and then tucks the weapon in the back of his pajama pants.

He leaves the room.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Andrew goes to the sink and pours a glass of water.

JASON (V.O.)

Andy, it's okay. Get going before
they get back!

Andrew chugs the water down and puts the glass down HARD on the counter.

JASON (V.O.)

Look at me, it's oka-

ANDREW

(yells)

-Just shut up, shut the hell up!

Andrew swipes the glass clean off the counter and it SMASHES. He doesn't notice as he turns and sinks down onto the ground, his head and back against the counter.

He pulls the gun out and stares down at it. He rubs it along his face, his face crinkles in emotion.

ANDREW

It's not okay. Nothing's okay!

Andrew ducks his head into his arms as GUNFIRE brings us to...

FLASHBACK:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Blistering sun and heat beat down on a too bright landscape. Boots run over sand and crushed rock as HEAVY BREATHING comes from an escaping figure.

He stops behind a large boulder and sinks down to put his back on the shaded rock. He puts his helmeted head in his arms and a small SOB wracks his body.

He looks up. It's Andrew. He breathes HEAVY and smashes one fist into the ground as he tries to calm down.

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JASON (V.O.)

Just go. Save yourself man.

Pan out to Andrew's body, his uniform with spots of blood. He looks at dog tags in his hands. The tags and him are coated in blood, his face too.

ANDREW

How could I leave him? HOW COULD-

Distant GUNFIRE. Andrew puts the dog tags on and jerks down in slight fear and peers around the boulder.

ANDREW

Fuck. How could I?

Back to...

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Andrew jerks down once more but is back against the kitchen counter.

The gun is against his temple, his eyes closed, as he hears SHOUTS and a SCREAM in his mind.

Jessica enters and covers her mouth in shock as she sees him. She approaches quietly but her footsteps alert him.

Andrew JUMPS up, gun towards her as his other hand clutches his chest.

Jessica freezes, terrified. Andrew, eyes glassed over, walks towards her and backs her into the wall. He lets go of the tags and SLAMS his one hand to the wall beside her face.

She begins to shake and silently cry.

ANDREW

You killed him. You fucking killed Jason. Why him? Should have taken me. It should have been me!

The dog tags are visible as they swing from around his neck and he THUMPS his fist against the wall repeatedly. The gun still waves close to her head in his other hand.

ANDREW

He was the better soldier. You hear me?

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JESSICA
(sobbing)
Baby...it's...me.

A car engine BACKFIRES and Andrew looks up as he's jolted back to reality. He looks back to her and steps back.

ANDREW
Holy shit. Jess? Jess are you
okay? Oh my god.

Jessica slides away against the wall and backs up from him. He reaches for her but she grabs the gun out of his hand.

JESSICA
(holds the gun out)
No! Stay away from me.

Andrew freezes.

ANDREW
I'm so sorry. I thought...I
thought I was somewhere else.

Jessica steps back as she wipes tears away and swings the gun between them to ward him off.

JESSICA
You could have killed me.

ANDREW
Baby, I would never.

He steps towards her and she steps back, keeps the gun between them.

ANDREW
You know I would never hurt you
right?

JESSICA
You just did.

Andrew looks down at his hands. He sees them as still bloody from the desert.

JESSICA
You need help Andrew. You need
actual help.

He looks up at her and holds his chest again. He takes off the dog tags he's been wearing and looks at them.

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POV: "JASON STUART" on the tags. Andrew's hands and the tags are bloodied once more.

Jessica watches him and lowers the gun slightly but has tears in her eyes.

Andrew holds out his bloodied hands, the tags hanging from around his wrist.

ANDREW

Do you see this?

JESSICA

(confused)

See what? What are you talking about?

ANDREW

The blood. All the blood.

Andrew looks down again and the blood is gone. He steps back and falls against the counter on the ground again, clutching the tags to him. His body starts to TREMBLE and Jessica carefully puts the gun down on the counter to go closer to him.

JESSICA

(weary)

Hey, baby, it's going to be okay.
But we need to get you help.

ANDREW

We?

JESSICA

Of course we. You're never alone.

Jessica crouches beside him and puts her arms over him to hold him. His TREMBLES stop.

JESSICA

I've got you baby, I've got you.

Andrew unwraps his arms and hugs her back.

SHOT: Andrew on the ground in the desert and shakes against the boulder. Arms embrace him brotherly and he looks up to see a healthy and alive JASON (30s).

JASON

It's gonna be okay man. It wasn't
your fault.

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Andrew begins to CRY. Jessica holds him once more and rubs his back, rocks them both.

FADE TO BLACK

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