

THANKSGIVING

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT: NIGHT- BAR

AARON, an older man in his mid forties is in a rustic style bar with professionally dressed coworkers. He is stumbling towards the restroom. He looks at his watch that reads 7:00 pm. He runs out of the restroom towards the exit of the bar while waving his friends goodbye.

INT: NIGHT- SUBURBAN HOME

Aaron is greeted by his eldest daughter, ALYSSA, who is in her late teens.

ALYSSA
You're late. Again.

Aaron kisses her on the cheek.

AARON
I know sweetheart I'm sorry.

ALYSSA
We were supposed to leave to get to grandma and grandpa's house 30 minutes ago.

AARON
I know and I'm here now. Are your mom and sister ready to go?

Aaron's wife LILY, an older woman also in her mid forties walks down the steps putting an earring in her ear.

LILY
Aaron where were you? I've had the kids ready for an hour.

AARON
I got caught up in a work thing.
Are we ready?

LILY
A work thing? It's Thanksgiving.

AARON
I know, I'm sorry I just had to finish up a few things.

Lily sighs. Aaron, Lily, Alyssa and HAILEY, their youngest daughter who is a toddler, all run outside of the house to the car.

INT: NIGHT- CAR

Alyssa looks outside her window to see a long open road. It is a brisk autumn night and the roads are covered with ice and snow. They pass a flashing sign warning against driving in the weather conditions. Alyssa sees the sign and taps Aaron's shoulder.

ALYSSA

Hey dad maybe we should stop and pull over for a while. I Just saw a warning sign saying the roads were too icy to drive.

AARON

We don't have time to stop Lyss. Your grandparents already aren't my biggest fan. We'll be there soon, and the roads aren't that bad. Don't worry honey.

Alyssa slumps back into her seat and looks beside her at her younger sister giggling and playing with a small toy. A worried look washes over her face as she turns back towards the window.

LILY

Honey maybe we should stop.

Lily looks down at her phone and a weather app is open.

LILY (CONT'D)

It's only going to get worse tonight.

AARON

Honey they always say that yet we're always fine. Do you want to be even later and have your parents kill us?

Lily sighs and turns her head toward the window while biting her nails.

INT: LATER THAT NIGHT-CAR

Lily turns around and sees that both Alyssa and Hailey are asleep. She smiles slightly and turns back around to look at Aaron. He is blinking slowly and is slightly slouched forward.

LILY

Aaron?

Aaron does not respond. Lily grabs his arm and shakes him.

LILY (CONT'D)

AARON!

Aaron jolts forward and grips the steering wheel.

AARON

What? What's wrong?

LILY

What do you mean what's wrong? You were falling asleep behind the wheel with our children in the car!

AARON

I wasn't asleep I just zoned out for a second. Relax.

LILY

Don't tell me to relax you-

Lily clenches her fists to calm herself.

LILY (CONT'D)

Please tell me you were drinking.

Aaron remains silent.

LILY (CONT'D)

Was that the "work thing" you made us late for? Aaron we've talked about this.

AARON

Lily it was just one drink.

LILY

Unbelievable. Pull over so I can drive.

AARON

You're being ridiculous I don't need to pull over.

LILY
I said pull over.

Aaron remains facing forward. Lily jerks the wheel to the right, towards her. Alyssa and Hailey wake up at the sudden movement. The car is sliding.

ALYSSA
DAD!

The car is spinning. Alyssa grabs hold of Hailey's hand. She closes her eyes and braces herself for the impact. Aaron and Lily lock hands and shut their eyes. The car crashes into a metal rail on a bridge above a frozen lake.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END