

INCONSOLABLE

By

Jerod Brennen

jerod.brennen@gmail.com
323.863.6398

1 INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT 1

A FRAMED FAMILY PHOTO stands on the end table: TIFFANY (30's) and JOHN (30's), with SAMANTHA (8) between them.

A perfect, happy family.

All three of them sit on the couch, enjoying a movie together. Their laughter is genuine, full of life.

2 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 2

They share dinner at the kitchen table. Samantha is telling an incredibly involved story with her hands. John is enraptured.

Tiffany sneaks an admiring glance at John. He's a good dad.

3 EXT. PARK - DAY 3

Samantha is the first one out of the car. She races to the play set, overflowing with enthusiasm.

John and Tiffany patiently follow their daughter, holding hands.

John and Tiffany stroll around the park together, content to let Samantha play on her own.

Samantha spies a BALL in the parking lot. She searches for her parents, spots them at the far end of the park.

Her eyes return to the ball.

A moment's hesitation, then she darts into the parking lot after her prize.

She never sees the CAR that hits her.

From too far away, John and Tiffany notice the commotion. Tiffany's motherly instinct kicks in before John is fully aware of what's happening.

Tiffany sprints toward the parking lot. John follows close behind.

- 4 EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY 4
- Tiffany kneels at Samantha's grave.
- John stands over his wife, one hand on her shoulder.
- John pulls away. He shuffles back to their car.
- Tiffany doesn't stir from her vigil.
- 5 INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT 5
- Another night, another movie.
- John sits at one of the couch, Tiffany at the other. They leave a space between them. Samantha's space.
- No laughter tonight.
- The photo remains on the end table, a reminder of how things used to be.
- 6 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 6
- John sits at one end of the table, Tiffany at the other. They share a sparse meal.
- Samantha's seat sits empty between them.
- No words are exchanged over this meal. No animated stories.
- John sneaks a glance at his wife, then another.
- Tiffany picks at her food without looking up.
- 7 EXT. PARK - DAY 7
- Tiffany sits alone on a swing. The wind nudges her this way and that, but she doesn't resist.
- Her eyes are fixed on the parking lot.
- John appears behind her. Hesitation. He places a tentative hand on her shoulder.
- Tiffany doesn't acknowledge his touch. Instead, she stands and drifts away, leaving John alone by the swing.

- 8 EXT. BACKYARD - DAY 8
- Tiffany sits by herself on a bench.
- John appears beside her. He sits on the opposite end of the bench.
- The silence between them has become constant.
- A ROSE appears in John's hand. He presents it to his wife.
- Tiffany hesitates, then accepts his gift.
- The faintest hint of a SMILE appears on her lips.
- 9 EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY 9
- John and Tiffany walk side by side. Their conversation is sparse, but at least they're talking.
- Tiffany reaches down and takes John's hand in hers.
- 10 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 10
- John and Tiffany enjoy a CANDLELIGHT DINNER together. The only chairs at the table are theirs. Samantha's chair is gone.
- Between them, a bottle of wine rests empty on the table.
- Their fleeting glances are flirtatious, the same looks that lovers might exchange on a first date.
- John pushes his chair away as he stands. He walks to Tiffany, takes her hand in his, leads her from the kitchen.
- 11 INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT 11
- John and Tiffany lie together on the couch, kissing, wrapped in a forgotten embrace.
- Tiffany opens her eyes. The family photo on the end table stares back at her, accusing.
- Tiffany pushes John away.
- The silence is short lived. An argument ensues, fueled by their 'almost' passion. Soon, they're SCREAMING at one another.
- It ends as suddenly as it began.

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John stops screaming. Resigned, he leaves the family room. He reappears wearing his jacket.

He doesn't say another word, doesn't even look at his wife. He marches out the front door without a backward glance.

Tiffany sits alone in the center of the couch, in Samantha's space. She wants to cry, but the tears won't come.

Again, her eyes drift to the family photo.

With a sudden rage, she RIPS the photo from its frame and TEARS the picture in half. When she looks at her handiwork, her rage dissipates.

In her trembling hands, she holds a torn picture of her lost child.

12 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT 12

The front door stands closed against the darkness, dimly illuminated by the porch light.

A small finger appears, rings the DOORBELL.

13 INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT 13

Tiffany reacts to the sound of the doorbell. She stands, composes herself.

With the picture still in hand, Tiffany walks to the front door, opens it.

The torn picture falls from her hand.

Standing in the doorway is Samantha's DECAYING CORPSE. The ghoul raises its skeletal hands toward the woman in the doorway.

CUT TO BLACK

14 ON BLACK 14

SAMANTHA

Mommy?