

Sins of the Father

By

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INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - 1975

Shades are drawn, casting an orange shade over a well-kept bedroom. A double-bed separates two night stands. The bedspread and pillows are undisturbed, belonging to lovers who are much too polite with one another.

JACK (4) sits Indian-style in the center of the bed. He peers down at his mother, CHRISTINE (40), who lays motionless on the ground.

Christine's limbs are crookedly placed against and away from her body. Jack's FATHER (40), rushes into the room. He crosses in front of Jack, whose eye line does not alter. Father throws himself down next to his wife and starts to shake her body.

FATHER

You're still my wife, don't do this! Oh God. Christine!

Father looks up momentarily to see his young son standing in shock.

INT. JACK'S ROOM - 2009

JACK (38) blinks and shakes himself free from the memory. He sits up in BED and stares down at his wife, AMANDA (40) who smiles up at him from her PILLOW.

AMANDA

Are you okay?

JACK

What?

AMANDA

It's not every morning that you startle awake like that.

Amanda moves nearer to him so that they touch, leaning her head against his shoulder cavity. Jack does not respond to her with his body language. She sits up straight in bed.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Is it your dad?

JACK

No. Yes, well, no. Mostly thinking about my mom, actually. How fucked up is that?

(CONTINUED)

Amanda runs her fingers through the back of his hair and pulls him close to her.

AMANDA
Not at all.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

The kitchen is well lit and comfortable. Amanda leans against expensive cabinetry while Jack gathers his belongings. Amanda wears a silk robe, though Jack is already dressed for work. She waits to give him the to-go cup of COFFEE that she holds.

AMANDA
We'll probably need to leave here by 4:30. I assume you're cutting out early.

JACK
(an edge)
Jesus, Amanda. Yes.

Jack fastens his coat and Amanda hands him the coffee.

AMANDA
Are you sure you should go in today? They probably don't expect you at the office.

Jack shoots her a look that makes her recoil.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Okay.

Amanda looks around the kitchen as Jack exits. She jumps slightly when the door shuts off screen. She sighs.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NOON

Jack exits the office building and rounds the corner. He has left his suit coat upstairs. Once he rounds the corner, he leans up against the brick wall.

Taking several deep breaths with his eyes closed, he loosens his tie. The spark of a lighter causes him to turn and notice the woman beside him, whose face is turned away from him.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

Excuse me?

CLAIRE (30) turns to face him, a lit cigarette in her mouth. She looks up beneath flirtatious eyelashes at him.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh, Claire. Could I have one of those?

Claire gives him a cigarette, which he lights.

CLAIRE

I'm surprised to see you. Honestly, I thought about calling myself in sick since I figured you wouldn't be here.

Claire smiles, but stops when she realizes her failure to elicit her intended response from Jack, who stares blankly.

JACK

Yea, well.

CLAIRE

(exhaling)

Sorry to hear about your dad.

JACK

Yea. Service tonight.

CLAIRE

Were you two close?

JACK

We were alright.

Claire tosses her cigarette to the ground and invades Jack's personal space. She stands on her toes to get her lips as close to Jack's ear as possible.

CLAIRE

Let me know if there is anything I could do for you.

Claire maintains eye contact while she bites the corner of her bottom lip.

Jack closes his eyes tightly and inhales his cigarette as Claire walks away from him. He opens his eyes, leans his head against the building, and blows smoke towards the sky.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - LATER

Jack stands next to Amanda. She has her arm wrapped around his waist. Tears well up in his eyes. Amanda takes notice.

AMANDA

Come on. Let's take a break.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - MINUTES LATER

Jack leads Amanda through the front doors of the funeral home, which are separated from ground level by steep FRONT STEPS. Amanda makes eye contact with GUESTS who walk in as they walk out.

AMANDA

Hi. Thanks for coming.

Amanda refocuses her attention on Jack, rubbing his back as he rubs his eyes. When he reopens his eyes, he notices a WOMAN (50s) standing at the bottom of the stairs, attempting to gather enough courage to enter the place. Amanda follows Jack's eye line towards the woman and leans in to whisper to her husband.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Who is that?

INT. PARENT'S FOYER - 1975

The WOMAN (25) carries her coat, shoes, and purse as she hurries for the door. Jack, at age four, watches the events unravel from the top of the stairs.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)

You don't just get to walk away!

Jack watches as his mother enters the room in a mess of tears and heaving sobs. Christine grabs the woman's arm and spins her around to face her.

Jack's father enters Jack's point of view just as quickly. He holds Christine by her shoulders and she collapses into his arms, hysterical. Jack's father nods towards the woman to exit.

CHRISTINE

(frantic)

Let me go! Please! She doesn't get to walk out of this now! It's too late! Don't touch me!

The woman opens the front door to leave. Before she leaves, she notices Jack at the top of the stairs. They maintain eye contact for a moment before the woman closes the door behind her.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - CONTINUOUS

AMANDA

Jack?

Jack looks at his wife and shrugs.

JACK

Don't know.

INT. ELEVATOR - MORNING

Jack occupies an empty elevator. He presses a button and smooths out his work clothes with the palms of his hands.

As the elevator door begins to close, a well-manicured HAND interrupts the sensor and causes the door to reopen.

Claire enters the elevator and stands beside Jack, who perks up a bit and swallows hard.

Once they are enclosed and in motion, Claire presses the emergency stop button on the elevator.

JACK

Claire, please. I have a meeting.

CLAIRE

I know, I scheduled it.

Claire smiles coyly and presses her pelvic bone up against Jack's and touches his face.

MONTAGE

The following three actions should be rapidly intercut with one another:

A. Claire attempts to seduce Jack in the elevator while Jack tries to avoid her advances in 2009 (HD).

B. Jack's father has sex with the woman in 1975 (16 mm).

C. Christine searches through her medicine cabinet and mixes pills, eventually consuming a handful in 1975 (16 mm).

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Jack pushes Claire away from him. He straightens his clothes and his posture and gets the elevator back in motion with the touch of a button. Claire appears painfully embarrassed.

INT. OFFICE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Jack rushes out of the elevator and towards a nearby STAIRCASE. Claire exits the elevator and calls after Jack while standing in place.

CLAIRE
Your meeting?

Jack looks back over his shoulder but continues to move.

JACK
Cancel it.

EXT. JACK'S HOUSE - LATER

As Jack pulls up to his modest city residence, he sees Amanda en route to her car, parked on the street. She is dressed in BUSINESS ATTIRE. She stops short of her car when she hears the door of her husband's car slam shut.

AMANDA
What are you doing here? I was just
about to head-

JACK
Could you call in sick?

Amanda smiles and nods. She opens her arms and Jack embraces her. She touches his face as she kisses him.

FADE OUT.