

To End Up Like Harry

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DAY- KITCHEN IN A FAMILY HOUSE

SAVANNA (6) walks from her room into the kitchen holding a blanket carefully. She brings it up to her mother, BRENDA, who is cooking on the stove. Her father, PHILLIP is pulling fur out of an old vacuum cleaner and cussing.

SAVANNA

I think Harry is dead. He's upside down, like Jeffery Fish was.

Brenda turns around and jumps a bit at the sight of the stiff, furry little creature.

She hugs Savanna.

BRENDA

I'm so sorry Savanna. I know you loved Harry. We can get you a new hamster, ok?

Savanna pulls away from the hug.

SAVANNA

No. I don't want a Harry number two.

Savanna turns and walks away and throws her hands up.

SAVANNA

There is no other Harry.

DAY- KIDS BEDROOM

Savanna sits cross legged on her bed. She is drawing a picture of Harry.

The site of her goldfish, Jeffery Fish the Fifth, catches her eye. She stares thoughtfully at the bowl.

Her attention then turns to her fluffy, snoring dog, BRUNO. He is laying on his back on the rug, sleeping deep. His legs stick up in the air- similar to Harry's death pose.

Finally her attention turns to the framed picture of Savanna and her parents that is on her dresser.

She stares at it, and her eyes light up with realization.

DAY- KITCHEN IN A FAMILY HOUSE

Savanna runs into the kitchen.

SAVANNA

Mom!

Savanna lowers her voice.

SAVANNA

Are you gonna die too?

BRENDA

What? No!

SAVANNA

But, if Jefferey Fish died four times,
and Harry died once, and Bruno looks
like he's dead...

BRENDA

What? What's wrong with the dog?

Phillip chimes in.

PHILLIP

What's wrong with the dog? He sheds
too damn much!

Phillip continues fixing the vacuum.

Savanna goes on with her flurry of questions to her mom. Now hugging her.

SAVANNA

So you won't die?

BRENDA

No, sweetie I'm not going to die for a
long time.

SAVANNA

For a long time? So there *is* a time?!

Phillip looks at Brenda.

PHILLIP

Looks like she cracked your code
honey.

SAVANNA

When? Mom when will you die?

BRENDA

Sweetie, nobody knows when they are

going to die. But I promise it won't be for a long time.

SAVANNA

When that happens, do I get a new mom, like I get a new fish? Like you want me to get a new Harry?

BRENDA

People are a little more complicated, baby.

Savanna begins to cry and recount the death's of all her past pets.

SAVANNA

First Jeffery Fish, Harry, then Bruno, Mom and Dad...it's everybody! Everybodyyyyyy...

Phillip joins Brenda and Savanna in the kitchen.

Phillip and Brenda speak in hushed tones. While Savanna laments.

PHILLIP

I know I'm going first, so until I die you're safe.

BRENDA

You *would* be selfish enough to die first.

PHILLIP

Men have shorter life spans. It's science. Probably from pulling animal hair out of the vacuum five times a month.

Bruno strolls lazily into the kitchen. Phillip points at the dog.

PHILLIP

You know, it wouldn't hurt if this one was next on the list.

Brenda elbows Phillip.

BRENDA

Our daughter is dealing with the sting of death. Have some sensitivity.

Phillip puts his hands on Savanna's shoulders. Bending down to her level.

PHILLIP

Listen sweetie. Everything has a time to live and a time to die. Jeffery Fish one through five, Harry, Bruno and your old mom and dad. Even you...

Brenda interrupts.

BRENDA

I know. Would you like to have a funeral for Harry?

Savanna thinks for a beat. Then says dramatically.

SAVANNA

If we are all gonna die, why do we try so hard when we are alive? I'm just gonna go lay on my bed and wait. I'm sure it will be any minute now. I'm feeling a bit fuzzy. I'll be in my room.

Brenda and Phillip watch as Savanna mopes out of the kitchen.

BRENDA

Our daughter, the philosopher.

PHILLIP

She's not wrong.

BRENDA

Don't say that! Of course she's wrong. Our lives have meaning. What about love? What about looking up at the stars and feeling that there *is* something out there after death!

Phillip grabs a soda out of the fridge and heads out.

PHILLIP

Nah...I'm with the kid on this one.

EVENING- BACKYARD OF FAMILY HOME

Savanna, Brenda, Phillip and Bruno, stand around a small square hole in the ground under a big oak tree. Savanna is holding a shoebox.

BRENDA

Would you like to say something nice
you remember about Harry? Before we
bury him?

Savanna studies the hole in the ground.

SAVANNA

I wrote a poem.

BRENDA

That's great honey.

SAVANNA

Maybe Harry will grow back? When we
bury him, he will grow like a tree?

PHILLIP

(Whispers to Brenda)

When I'm gone toss me in a burlap sack
six feet under, right next to ol'
Harry here. He's getting real five
star treatment!

Brenda elbows Phillip yet again.

Phillip notices the dog.

The dog eyes him. Phillip locks eye contact with Bruno.

PHILLIP

(Mouths to the dog)

You're next.

Savanna opens the shoe box and is poking Harry's stiff little
body. She starts to cry and hugs her mom.

SAVANNA

I don't want you to ever leave me!

At this same moment, Bruno sticks his face in the box and
grabs Harry.

Phillip yells.

PHILLIP

No! Bad dog!

BRENDA

Bruno no come back!

Savanna starts to say her goodbye poem amongst the chaos. Phillip liberates Harry's body from Bruno's mouth. Her parents quiet down.

SAVANNA

We're all gonna end up like Harry, In
a box in a hole in the ground. I
realized this and it was scary, so I'm
saying my fears out loud. If we are
all gonna end up like Harry, I think,
why should we even try? Just waiting
our turn to D-I-E, in case it's bad
luck to say the word 'die'. But now
that I did I feel better, and Harry
it's not so bad. You will be right
here under the big oak tree, while I
think of the fun we had.

The family chuckles.

SAVANNA (CONTINUED)

I never want to forget you. So I drew
your face with a crayon.

Savanna holds up the picture she drew the night before.

SAVANNA (CONTINUED)

And if we all end up like Harry, at
least we'll be together again.

The whole family stands solemnly for a moment. Looking around at each other.

Phillip breaks the silence while wiping away a tear.

PHILLIP

Ok sweetie, put Harry in the ground.

Savanna places a slobbery Harry in the box and the box gently in the hole. Phillip covers it with dirt.

Savanna walks back toward the house. Brenda and Phillip put their arms around each other, looking at Harry's little grave.

PHILLIP

Til we end up like Harry.

BRENDA

Til we end up like Harry.

7.

CUT TO BLACK