

CHRISTIE'S NEW FAMILY

Written by

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Address  
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INT. MOLLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

MOLLY SHERIDAN (8) puts on her boots while she sits on a bed. She wears a warm jacket and hat. Molly then stands and puts on her mittens.

Her room is a normal one for a child her age -- fashion dolls and stuffed toys a plenty. Empty moving boxes dot one corner.

INT. LIVING ROOM / FOYER - DAY

RACHEL SHERIDAN (35), Molly's mother, takes some books out of a moving box and places them on a shelf.

She reaches inside again and takes a framed photo, which she looks at with sadness.

It is a family photo of her, Molly and her husband ROY (30).

She silently studies the photo before she places it on the shelf with care.

Molly emerges in the foyer just outside the entrance to the living room.

MOLLY  
I'm going outside.

RACHEL  
Don't go too far from the house,  
and when you start to feel cold,  
come inside.

MOLLY  
I will.

She heads out the front door with a SMALL JUMP of delight.

EXT. SHERIDAN HOME - CONTINUOUS

THE SHERIDAN HOME is a modern one story surrounded by a wooded area, fairly isolated.

All over the ground is FRESH FALLEN SNOW.

Molly immediately runs to the middle of the yard and is overwhelmed by the snow possibilities around her.

Just then, in the distance, she hears the faint yet distant sound of a LITTLE GIRL LAUGHING. It ECHOES on the wind.

Molly turns to the sound, but there is nothing.

Again, she hears the LAUGH. It is faint, yet beckoning.  
Molly walks in the direction of the sound.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Rachel places a roast in the oven.  
She looks at the clock on the stove, which reads 3:45.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rachel walks up to the window to look out to the front yard.  
Molly is outside, actively engaged in building a SNOWMAN. She can hear her daughter LAUGHING through the glass.  
Rachel has a small MELANCHOLY SMILE as she looks at this.

EXT. OLD NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Through the window, Rachel can now see the SUBURBAN STREET where she once lived with her family. HOUSES now line the block across from her.

In the front yard of her memory, she now sees her husband Roy helping a 5-YEAR-OLD MOLLY build a snowman.

During the process, the younger Molly THROWS A SNOWBALL at her dad, and he immediately gives chase, much to her delight. The two race around the snowman in circles, LAUGHING.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rachel wipes a small tear from her eye as she looks at Molly alone outside. She walks toward the foyer nearby.

EXT. SHERIDAN HOME - DAY

Rachel opens the front door, and sees her daughter actively engaged in a conversation as she puts the final touches on the snowman, even though she is alone.

MOLLY

We just moved here yesterday, so I haven't met any of the other kids.

(beat)

I don't think so.

RACHEL  
Who are you talking to, Sweetie?

Molly turns to face her, finally acknowledging her presence.

MOLLY  
Oh, hi, Mom! Check out this great  
snowman we built!

RACHEL  
"We"?

MOLLY  
Yeah, my new friend Christie  
helped.

Rachel looks at the isolated surroundings.

RACHEL  
I didn't know anyone lived nearby.

MOLLY  
(points to the woods)  
She came from over there.

RACHEL  
(crosses her arms)  
Sweetie, we talked about this. I  
don't want you going to the woods  
without me.

MOLLY  
I didn't. I heard her, and when I  
looked, she was right there in our  
yard.

RACHEL  
And where is Christie now?

MOLLY  
She must have run off.

RACHEL  
Well, I think you've been out here  
long enough. Come in, and help get  
dinner going.

Molly immediately runs toward the house.

After she is in, Rachel scans the area. Sees no one.

INT. MOLLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Molly's in bed, legs under the covers, and reads a BOOK while dressed in her pajamas. A TABLE LAMP lights the room.

Suddenly, there is a SOFT KNOCK at her window right beside her bed.

The CURTAINS over the window are drawn, so she can't see.

She climbs out from under the covers and over to the window.

Another GENTLE KNOCK. Molly PULLS the curtains open.

Directly in front of her window is a SNOWMAN, identical to the one that she made earlier. It seems like it is looking through her window back at her.

Rachel enters.

RACHEL  
Need me to tuck you in?

MOLLY  
Come look at this.

RACHEL  
(walks toward her)  
What is it?

She STOPS when she sees the snowman outside the window.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Did you build another one?

MOLLY  
It wasn't there earlier.

RACHEL  
Molly, snowmen don't just grow out  
of the ground.

MOLLY  
But, it wasn't!

RACHEL  
Look, just stop, okay? I don't know  
if this is some kind of game, but  
it creeps me out a little.

Rachel reaches for the curtains, CLOSES THEM FORCEFULLY.

When she faces her daughter, Molly is SAD. This immediately softens Rachel's mood.

MOLLY  
 (soft)  
 I'm not lying.

RACHEL  
 No. I know you're not that type.

She sits on the bed with her.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 This move has been stressful on  
 both of us, hasn't it?

Molly nods.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 Let's get some sleep. We can figure  
 this out in the morning.

Rachel stands as Molly gets back under the covers. She then  
 bends down to kiss her daughter on the head.

MOLLY  
 Love you.

RACHEL  
 Love you more.

Rachel reaches for the table lamp and TURNS IT OFF.

EXT. SHERIDAN HOME - NIGHT

The FRONT YARD is illuminated by a PORCH LIGHT. Through the  
 window on the front door, Rachel walks up to look outside.

There is the original snowman that Molly built.

After a moment, she TURNS OFF the porch light, casting the  
 yard in DARKNESS.

INT. FOYER / HALLWAY - LATER THAT NIGHT

A TRAIL OF WET FOOTPRINTS are on the floor before the front  
 door, which HANGS OPEN. They are small - A CHILD'S.

The footprints make their way to the hallway and lead to  
 Molly's bedroom.

Through the open door, Molly sits on her bed. There is  
 another FIGURE in there with her who sits next to her.

It appears to be a GIRL about the same age. She is cloaked in SILHOUETTE and is featureless.

The two are engaged in a whispered conversation that can't be made out.

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Rachel STIRS as she slowly wakes. She lazily GRABS HER PHONE on the nightstand to check the time.

Seeing that it is 9:30, Rachel visibly expresses concern over how quiet the house is.

She looks toward her bedroom door, which hangs OPEN.

RACHEL  
(calls out)  
Molly, are you awake?

No answer.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She YAWNS as she walks down the hall to her daughter's room. She STOPS when she steps in something WET.

It is the FOOTPRINTS. This time, there are ones that were not there before. These head from Molly's room to the hall with the front door, which is now CLOSED.

RACHEL  
(calls out)  
Honey? Are you okay?

No answer. She HURRIEDLY makes her way to Molly's room.

INT. MOLLY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is empty.

Those same WET FOOTPRINTS both lead to, and away from, her daughter's bed.

INT. HALLWAY / FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Rachel follows the footprints where they lead, back toward the foyer.

The trail goes to the front door, where it abruptly ENDS.  
Rachel opens the door.

EXT. SHERIDAN HOME - CONTINUOUS

Outside, there are a FRESH PAIR OF FOOTPRINTS in the heavy snow -- two of them side by side.

They lead past Molly's snowman in the front yard, toward the woods beyond.

RACHEL  
(yells)  
Molly!!

No answer.

EXT. THE WOODS - MORNING

Now fully dressed for the outdoors, Rachel follows the trail of twin footprints in the snow through the wooded area that surrounds the home.

RACHEL  
(calls out)  
Molly, please answer me!

She waits for an answer, then continues the trail.

EXT. A RIVER CLEARING - MORNING

Rachel steps from the dense trees into a CLEARING where a river runs through.

Rachel STOPS as soon as she enters, her EYES WIDE WITH TERROR.

MOLLY LIES LIFELESSLY in the water, her head up against the rocks.

Rachel RUSHES TOWARD HER, pulling her close.

Molly's eyes are SHUT TIGHT, and do not respond. She is dressed in her pajamas, only now she wears her winter coat over them. There is a BLOODY GASH on top of her head.

Rachel SOBS HYSTERICALLY as she DESPERATELY SHAKES the girl in a vain attempt to rouse her. Her sobs turn to SCREAMS.

EXT. SHERIDAN HOME - DAY

A NUMBER OF POLICE CARS are parked outside. OFFICERS make their way in and out of the woods nearby.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Rachel slowly and solemnly makes her way down an aisle of CHILD-SIZED CASKETS with the aid of a FUNERAL ATTENDANT.

SHE COLLAPSES RIGHT THERE, SOBBING, while the attendant desperately takes her shoulders to offer comfort.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel sits SLOUCHED AND DRAINED on the couch with her phone as she watches an old family video.

ON THE PHONE, an OFF CAMERA Rachel films an amusement park carousel. On one of the horses is her husband, Roy, who rides with Molly.

They both WAVE as they pass by.

RACHEL (O.S., ON THE VIDEO)  
Hey, guys!

Rachel puts the phone away, unable to watch anymore.

As she WEARILY LOOKS ABOUT the empty room, she notices something--

--A BOOK IS TUCKED IN THE SPACE BEHIND THE BOOKSHELF.

Curious, she walks over and DRAWS IT OUT.

IT IS A GRIEF JOURNAL. The owner is "EILEEN JACOBSEN".

Rachel flips to the first page, and reads--

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
"I lost my daughter on January 7th  
of this year. Christie was a  
beautiful soul whose loss still  
haunts me"--

She stops reading and repeats the name she just read--

RACHEL  
 (soft, to herself)  
 Christie--  
 (continues to read)  
 "As winter approaches again, I am reminded of how she used to love to play in the fields and the snow".

Rachel DESPERATELY FLIPS AHEAD through the book, stops at another passage--

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 "The snowman appeared outside of our house again. My husband wonders if someone is playing a prank, but there's no one around for miles. They seemingly appear overnight without any explanation".

She FLIPS AHEAD AGAIN.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 "I am hearing her voice now. My husband and I must leave here, as the torment is just too great. I can only hope we will find peace somewhere else".

As Rachel flips through the rest of the book, the pages are BLANK.

INT. MOLLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rachel TURNS ON THE LIGHT as she enters. She stands in the middle and takes everything in.

Her eyes fall on the window near the bed and she sees the snowman just outside, seemingly looking in on her.

Rachel STARES BLANKLY back at first, but soon with VISIBLE ANGER.

EXT. SHERIDAN HOME - NIGHT

She MARCHES WITH DETERMINATION to the snowman outside the window, a SHOVEL in her hand.

With a SCREAM OF RAGE, she begins to BASH IT APART with the shovel.

With each swing, her anger is more PALPABLE and her CRIES more primal.

Even after the creation has been completely smashed, she still POUNDS THE GROUND with the shovel, like she is forcing it into the earth below her.

When it is done, she DROPS the shovel and BREATHS HEAVILY. She MARCHES around the corner back to the front door.

As she does, she passes the SMASHED REMAINS of the front yard snowman that Molly first built. It was destroyed beforehand.

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rachel THROWS HERSELF on the bed, exhausted, and SOBS into the sheets as she buries her face.

There is a soft, GENTLE KNOCK at the window nearby.

She lifts her head at this and looks toward the window.

Outside, A SNOWMAN LOOKS DIRECTLY BACK AT HER.

Rachel stands, her face DRAINED FROM FRIGHT as she stares at this impossible sight. It looks exactly like the one she just destroyed.

THE LIGHTS GO OUT. Rachel looks FRANTICALLY about. Then, from behind--

MOLLY (O.S.)  
It's okay, Mommy--

Rachel FREEZES at this sound. Slowly she turns--

In the doorway STANDS MOLLY, who wears the same clothes as when she died. She smiles.

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
Christie's nice. Do you want to meet her? She's lonely in the forest. Her parents wouldn't come to join her, and moved away.

She holds out her small hand.

There is a long, tense moment. Slowly and with tears in her eyes, Rachel reaches out and takes her hand.

EXT. SHERIDAN HOME - NIGHT

Molly leads her mother out of the house, and points off toward the woods in the distance.

In front of the woods is the DARK SILHOUETTE of a small girl.

After a moment, it DISAPPEARS INTO THE TREES.

Molly looks up at Rachel.

MOLLY

We can live with her, and we'll  
never have to be apart. We can be a  
family. Maybe we'll see Daddy, too.

Rachel breaks down, sobbing, and falls on her knees.

RACHEL

(through her sobs)  
I don't want to be alone--

Molly smiles and gently takes her hand.

Rachel slowly rises as Molly leads her toward the forest.

They both DISAPPEAR through the shadowy trees.

After a few moments, we hear the FAINT AND GENTLE LAUGH of a  
LITTLE GIRL, the same before. It is now joined by Molly's  
LAUGH, just as faint.

Soon, Rachel's LAUGH joins in over the winter wind.