

BEHIND THE DOOR

Written by

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Address  
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EXT. A SMALL TOWN - DAY

We are introduced to a family friendly small town in summer.

We approach a small, well-kept house just outside downtown. A large window sits beside the front door.

JESSICA and MATT DAWSEN sit opposite each other at a small table behind the window.

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

On the table is an unfinished 5000 piece jigsaw puzzle. The couple pieces the puzzle together as young families walk down the street.

Jessica plays with her wedding ring and smiles widely at Matt, holding her gaze until he finally looks up and locks eyes with her.

MATT

What?

JESSICA

Nothing I just --

A kid's laugh is heard from the street and they both immediately turn to see the young and happy family walking by their window.

**As Jessica watches the family, she smiles.**

JESSICA (CONT'D)

That just looks so stressful...

MATT

No fun at all...

**Matt smiles. They turn to face each other**

JESSICA

There's no way that I want to have kids...

MATT

Could you imagine? Raising miniature Matts and Jessicas...

JESSICA

Chasing them around the house

MATT

Making a mess

**JESSICA**  
Taking them to soccer practice

**MATT**  
And science fairs

**JESSICA**  
Teaching them to walk

**MATT**  
And talk

**JESSICA**  
And all the cute little toys

**MATT**  
And tiny socks...

Their smiles grow.

**MATT (CONT'D)**  
I want a baby

They lean over the table and share a kiss

**JESSICA**  
Me too

Suddenly Jessica pulls Matt in for a passionate kiss, pulling away only to race him to the bedroom. We follow them to the bedroom, but they shut the door on us.

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - MONTAGE

- Jessica pulls Matt into the bedroom and they flop together onto the bed. It's summer; outside the sky is blue and the sun is bright
- Jessica throws away a negative pregnancy test
- Matt knocks over a lamp after tossing Jessica on the couch. Outside, colorful leaves fall from the trees.
- Jessica throws away another negative pregnancy test
- Jessica stares at the dining table before clearing it with one swipe, climbing on top, and inviting Matt to join her. Outside, snow falls from the sky.
- Jessica throws away another negative pregnancy test
- They sit on the floor of the living room, their noses are inches away, a heated staring contest.

Jessica is the first to blink so she throws a pillow at Matt and follows it with a playful tackle. Outside the snow is mostly melted away.

- Jessica sits on the bathroom floor next to a pregnancy test. Matt lets himself in and joins her on the floor and takes her hand. Matt squeezes her hand as she reaches for the pregnancy test. This one is positive!

**- Matt comes home for work, removes his shoes, un-tucks his shirt, and approaches Jessica on the couch. He pulls a teddy bear out from behind his back and makes it do a little dance. Jessica laughs.**

- Matt wrestles with the parts of a crib with the assembly instructions untouched on the floor

- Jessica wakes up in the middle of the night and throws back the sheets, revealing a pool of blood beneath her.

FADE TO BLACK.

We hear sirens as the screen is black.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Jessica is propped up on the hospital bed, staring at her lap. She struggles to hide the flow of tears that stream down her face.

Matt slowly enters through the door and gently closes it behind him. He approaches the bed and lays the roses on the bed on the other side of Jessica then wipes the tears from her face. He sits in the chair next to the bed and strokes Jessica's arm.

She leans over to smell the flowers and then pulls Matt onto the bed with her, without a smile.

**MATT**

**I will always be here with you**

Slowly zoom out as the two of them lay on the hospital bed arm in arm.

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - MONTAGE

- Matt starts a new 3000 piece jigsaw puzzle on the table and brings Jessica to the seat. She holds one piece between her fingers and just stares out the front window as families walk by.

- Matt finds Jessica sitting in their bedroom staring at a giraffe toy. He starts toward her but she aggressively chucks the toy at the wall and picks up a stuffed teddy bear. She goes to throw the bear as well but Matt leaps in to hold her.

MATT

It's not your fault

JESSICA

How could you say that? You're not the one who lost the baby.

MATT

It...it's not your fault.  
(Jessica pulls away from  
his embrace and looks  
into his eyes)  
I know it hurts but --

JESSICA

Don't you dare act like you know what I'm going through.

Jessica shoves away from Matt and storms out the door

- Jessica sits on the floor, cradling the teddy bear and leans back against the crib and stares at the wall full of painted trees. She doesn't let a smile out, but she pets the teddy bear's head as if she was touching a child's head.

- Jessica sits on the back porch in the middle of winter. She stares at her hands, shivering, hair catching the breeze. Matt comes outside and squats in front of her. He takes her cold hands in his and waits for her to look up at him. He holds a confident smile on his face until she manages a small smile back to him.

- Matt turns on "I Won't Give Up" by Jason Mraz and pulls Jessica up from the couch. They dance slowly and look into each other's eyes. After the song ends, they fall into a passionate kiss.

MATT

I love you

JESSICA

I love you too

INT. HALF BATHROOM IN THE HALLWAY

Jessica studies her face in the bathroom mirror. She takes in a deep breath, heavily exhales, and swallows.

She studies her face once more and shuts her eyes before revealing the second positive pregnancy test.

JESSICA  
Muh...Mah...Matt!...MATT!

Matt sprints to the bathroom

MATT  
What?! What? Are you okay?

JESSICA  
Honey! Honey...stop. Look..

MATT  
Oh my...OH MY GOSH! JESS! YOU DID IT! You...OH!  
(he picks her up and spins her around)  
You did it! You...oh...Jess  
(kiss and put her back down)  
We should call Chris and Sammy! Oh she will be so happy --

JESSICA  
No!...no don't. Don't tell them...  
Don't tell anyone...not yet...  
Honey.. We only just found out.  
Let's wait...

MATT  
You're right... let's wait. Oh...  
I'm just so happy... Jess...

**Matt pulls Jess into an embrace, then moves his hands to her head and gently kisses her forehead.**

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. ARCHITECTURE FIRM - DAY

MATT sits at a desk, drafting a building in front of him. On his desk is a small plate that states MATT DAWSEN, JUNIOR ARCHITECT. At the top of the page he is working on is Miller Project.

He has pictures of him and Jessica at their wedding, and many others of just the two of them. **One picture of Matt and his arm around a friend, CHRIS, on a hiking trip.**

WAYNE, the head architect (Principal), **is standing over Matt's shoulder. Analyzing every line Matt draws and doesn't seem all too enthusiastic about the draft.**

WAYNE

How's the Miller Project coming along? Were you able to incorporate the octagon game room?

MATT

Yes, actually. Ha-ha, it was quite the adventure, but I made it work.

Wayne leans in to get a closer look at Matt's work, **raises an eyebrow.**

WAYNE

...interesting. I'm not sure if the Mrs. will enjoy it...

MATT

Well, this way she can watch the boys play and then jump back in the kitchen to cook, and back in the game room to watch, and --

WAYNE

She and Dr. Miller will be here in a minute. Don't worry, they won't need the final draft for another month. There's time to fix it.

Matt sits back and looks over all his hard work again as Wayne strolls away. Shaking his head, he picks up his pen and continues to draft.

CHRIS and SAMANTHA enter through the front door. Samantha is visibly 5 months pregnant.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

Dr. Miller!

(he approaches them at the door)

Glad you could make it today.

(shakes Chris' hand)

Mrs. Miller...

(shakes her hand gently)

a pleasure, as always.

Matt stands up and walks over to the group to greet the couple.

MATT

**Hey man! How's it going?**

Matt and Chris shake hands and bring it in for a brotherly hug. As Chris answers, Matt turns to Samantha to give her a gentle hug.

CHRIS

I'm excited to see your work!  
Samantha says you have been showing  
her some neat stuff with the rest  
of the house.

MATT

Well I'm glad you decided to come!  
It's over here.

Matt leads the group to his desk.

MATT (CONT'D)

Okay so here's my first draft...  
(picks up the paper he's  
been working on)  
It's just an idea --

WAYNE

We're still playing around with  
other possibilities...

Samantha carefully takes the large piece of paper from Matt.  
She studies the work closely.

SAMANTHA

Oh Matt... It's brilliant!

MATT

Really?

WAYNE

Really?

SAMANTHA

Yes! What do you think babe?

CHRIS

As long as it makes my lady happy!  
(kisses her on the  
forehead as she hands the  
draft back to Matt)  
Well done Matt.

WAYNE

Well done.

Matt puts the draft back on his desk.



Wayne nods at the group and walks into his office. A small black plate on the door states: Wayne Cohen - Principal

CHRIS  
Nice work, man.

MATT  
Thanks.

CHRIS  
So...How's Jess holding up now?  
She's about 5 months as well right?

MATT  
Yes!

SAMANTHA  
Oh Matt... That is so great. I am  
so happy for the two of you. You  
deserve this.

MATT  
Thanks. Yeah, Jess is doing so much  
better now.

SAMANTHA  
Yes, well she is so strong. I  
couldn't imagine what she...what  
the two of you...went through. I am  
so happy you were able to try  
again.

Samantha gives him a sympathetic smile and rests her hand on his shoulder.

CHRIS  
It's so good that you're there for  
her. That's all she really needs.

SAMANTHA  
She knows it too, Matt. Jess  
appreciates everything that you  
have done for her.

Matt nods and gives them a gentle smile

CHRIS  
Do you know the gender yet?

MATT  
Oh! Yeah. Baby girl.

SAMANTHA

A GIRL?! Oh how darling! Do you know what you're going to name her?

MATT

Monica.

CHRIS

After your mom?

MATT

Yeah.

CHRIS

She would have loved that.

SAMANTHA

She's going to be so beautiful. Oh! I can't wait for all the play dates we'll have. I'll make sure Blake and Jamie are the perfect big brothers for her, and take care of her...Oh, I'm just so excited.

CHRIS

Well we'd better take off. We're already late to Blake's game.

SAMANTHA

And Jess and I are meeting for Pilates later today.

MATT

I keep forgetting about that. Is it thursday already?

SAMANTHA

Yup. The uh...25th.

MATT

Of FEBRUARY?!

CHRIS

Haha yeah. Time flies right? Just wait until you start on your second one.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, time flies for you two. Not so much for Jess and I.

The three share a little laugh as they hug goodbye

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Bye Matt.

MATT

Bye Sammy.

(bends down to talk to her  
tummy)

Bye bye Jamie!

CHRIS

See ya man.

**Chris claps Matt on his shoulder as he follows Samantha toward the door.**

Chris knocks on the glass door of Wayne's office to wave goodbye. Wayne waves from his desk as they walk out the door.

**Matt sits down at his desk and picks up the picture of he and Jessica at their wedding. His smile grows across his face.**

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Matt comes through the front door. Shakes off the snow from his coat and stomps the snow off his shoes, and drops his keys on the table under the front window.

MATT

Jess? ... Sweetie?...

He makes his way through the house checking every room.

Finally, he sits on the couch and looks down at the almost finished puzzle on the coffee table.

There's a sticky note on the puzzle: Went to Pregnancy Pilates with Samantha, I'll be home for dinner. Much love.

CUT TO:

Matt is in the kitchen preparing fried chicken with mashed potatoes and peas. He shuts off the stove and grabs a couple dinner plates --

His phone rings, he doesn't recognize the number, and is hesitant to answer.

MATT (CONT'D)

Hello? ... This is he...

Matt listens and can't move. In slow motion, the plates fall from his hand and shatter on the kitchen floor

Matt pulls the phone away from his ear and hangs up. He sprints to the door, grabbing his coat and shoes and car keys on the way out.

Sirens and the sound of footsteps running are heard as...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - MORNING

Matt's alarm goes off. The clock says 6:30 am. Matt wakes up, shuts off the alarm, sets the tear-away calendar to March 21, and rolls over to see the empty spot on his bed.

CUT TO:

Matt is now showered and wearing his work clothes: slacks and a button up shirt. Matt makes his way through the house to the kitchen. In the hallway, the light under the closed door of the half-bathroom is on.

Matt stops and knocks on the door.

MATT

Jessica? Are you in there?

JESSICA (O.S.)

Yeah

MATT

Are you okay?

JESSICA (O.S.)

I don't feel too well...

MATT

Oh...well hang in there! Do you need anything?

JESSICA (O.S.)

No...I'll be out in a minute

Matt goes into the kitchen, and prepares a breakfast of bland cereal with milk and peanut butter.

As Matt sits at the table and eats his cereal, he works on the Newspaper Crossword Puzzle dated February 26th

When he finishes his cereal he drinks the excess milk from the bowl. He carefully sets the dishes in the sink.

Matt walks to the shelf in the living room and grabs a 3000 piece puzzle. He opens the box and carefully dumps the pieces out on the coffee table.

Matt walks to the bathroom door in the hallway, and knocks.

MATT

Jess? Are you still in there?

JESSICA (O.S.)

Uh-huh

MATT

Are you sure you're okay?

JESSICA (O.S.)

Yes dear!

MATT

I'm going to work. Is there anything you would want me to bring back? From the grocery store or...

JESSICA (O.S.)

I'm okay. Thank you!

MATT

Well...I left a new puzzle out for you on the coffee table. It looks like a fun one.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Thank you dear, I'll take a look at it

MATT

Okay, I'll uh, see you when I get home?

JESSICA (O.S.)

Of course

Matt makes his way to the door. He puts on his jacket and slides on his work shoes then pats the pockets of his jacket, looking for his...

MATT

Honey?

JESSICA (O.S.)

On the table dear!

MATT

Oh, ha... thank you!

He snatches his keys from the table by the front window and walks out the door, closing it behind him. A beat. Matt swings the door open...

MATT (CONT'D)

Honey?

JESSICA (O.S.)

In your pocket, dear!

MATT

Oh...

(pulls his wallet out of  
his back pocket)

Thank you!

Matt goes back out the door. Almost closes it, then swings it back open again.

MATT (CONT'D)

I...I love you!

JESSICA (O.S.)

I love you too!

Matt shuts the door.

INT. ARCHITECTURE FIRM - LATER

Matt is at his desk, drafting the Miller Project.

Wayne walks out from his office and sees Matt already working at his desk. He looks at his watch that reads 7:30 AM.

Without stopping his work,

MATT

Do you like it?

WAYNE

It...looks good. Matt, What are you doing here?

MATT

I know I'm early. But I'm ready to get back on this project.

WAYNE

Oh. Well, that's good. I'm happy to see you!

MATT

Good to see you too boss. Anything else the Millers want to add?

WAYNE

Oh! Yeah. The Mrs. wants the back porch to be a little wider. I was thinking we could add a foot to each side? See how that lines up with the house.

MATT

Alright. That's good. I think I'll play around with it a little more.

Wayne pats Matt on the shoulder as he heads to his office.

WAYNE

Good to have you here.

Wayne continues to his office when CHRIS enters through the front door.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

Dr. Miller! Great timing.

(they shake hands)

Matt's here already. He's working on the porch for Samantha

CHRIS

Hey Wayne. Wow, he's here earlier than I'd expect.

WAYNE

That's a good thing though right?

CHRIS

Yeah! It's great news.

Matt swivels in his chair to face Wayne and Chris at the door.

MATT

How ya doin' Chris?

CHRIS

I'm doing alright. How are you?

Chris approaches Matt in his chair.

MATT

I'm doing well!

CHRIS

Good.

MATT

Yeah. Oh! I have a question.

CHRIS

Yeah what's up?

MATT

So Sammy...when she was pregnant with Blake, or even now with Jamie, did she ever just sit in the bathroom for a long time?

CHRIS

Not that I remember. She might have when I was out of the house though.

MATT

Oh okay.

CHRIS

Why?

Matt looks at the picture of him and Jessica on his desk.

MATT

Just curious.  
 (his eyes trail down to  
 the draft of The Miller  
 Project)  
 Anyway, Sammy requested a wider porch. I was messing around with it, maybe if we had the porch shaped more like this...  
 That way you can have your hot tub at the corner instead of right at the top.

CHRIS

Oh...yeah. I like the way that looks.

Wayne pops his head out from behind his door of his office

WAYNE

Dr. Miller. I need to go over the floorplans of the extension to your garage with you.

CHRIS

Oh, right. That's why I came here.  
 (turns back to Matt)

**(MORE)**



**CHRIS (CONT'D)**

Well done buddy. I'll see you later?

**MATT**

How about coffee Saturday morning?

**CHRIS**

Sounds good. See ya then

Chris walks into Wayne's office. Matt puts the draft back on his desk and a proud smile grows on his face.

**INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - LATER**

Matt enters the front door, stomps snow off his shoes and shakes off his coat. He tosses his keys on the table by the front window.

**MATT**

Jess?

He walks up to the half-bathroom in the hallway, the light is still on and beams underneath the closed door.

**MATT (CONT'D)**

Jess, are you okay?

**JESSICA (O.S.)**

Yes. I'm fine

**MATT**

Have you...Have you been in there all day?

**JESSICA (O.S.)**

Yes

**MATT**

Oh... Are you sure you're okay? That's an awfully long time to be --

**JESSICA (O.S.)**

I'm fine.

Matt nods then walks over to the coffee table. He sees that the puzzle hasn't been touched. He starts sorting out the pieces and turning them face up.

Zoom in on the analog clock on the wall, the hands spin quickly showing the hand turning from 5:15 to 7:15.

Return to Matt at the coffee table, about three quarters finished with the puzzle.

Matt looks up at the clock, stands up, and walks to the half-bathroom door in the hallway.

MATT

Jess? You've been in there all day... You really need to come out and get something to eat.

JESSICA (O.S.)

I told you, I'm fine.

MATT

Well do you still want dinner?

JESSICA (O.S.)

Yes

MATT

What would you like?

CUT TO:

Matt preparing fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and peas.

He shuts off the stove and grabs two plates to serve the dinners on.

Shouting toward the bathroom,

MATT (CONT'D)

Dinner is ready!

JESSICA (O.S.)

Leave mine in the fridge.

MATT

Oh...you're not going to join me?

JESSICA (O.S.)

No.

MATT

Sweetie...

JESSICA (O.S.)

Put it in the fridge

MATT

(trying to hide his  
growing concern)  
You need to come out and eat with  
me.

JESSICA (O.S.)  
Put it in the fridge.

He stares at nothing for a while, then covers one plate with plastic wrap and sets it in the fridge.

He sits at the dinner table and starts to eat alone. He notices the Newspaper Crossword puzzle from February 26 and works on it while he eats.

When he finishes he puts the dirty dishes in the dishwasher and sets the used pans in the sink. Then he walks back over to the bathroom door.

MATT  
Honey please, come out.

JESSICA (O.S.)  
No

MATT  
Why not?

JESSICA (O.S.)  
I'm fine

MATT  
Please come out. Are you really sick? Come on, I can call a doctor...

Matt jiggles the door knob but it's locked

JESSICA (O.S.)  
No!

MATT  
Why is the door locked?!  
(waits for her answer)  
Jess! Why are you locked in the bathroom!?

JESSICA (O.S.)  
I don't want you to come in!

MATT  
Why can't I come in? I'm your husband!

JESSICA (O.S.)  
Leave me alone, Matt.

MATT

I'm just worried is all...you're five months pregnant. I just thought...maybe...I just...you should come out.

JESSICA (O.S.)

You thought what.

Matt rests his forehead on the door.

MATT

Are you...Are you taking care of yourself?

Beat.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Yes

MATT

...Good

JESSICA (O.S.)

What's that supposed to mean

MATT

Well...you're...you need to eat for two, you know. And you haven't eaten anything.

JESSICA (O.S.)

I'll eat it later.

MATT

But Jess...

JESSICA (O.S.)

I'LL EAT IT LATER!!!

Surprised and concerned, Matt slowly steps away from the door.

CUT TO:

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - FOLLOWING NIGHT

Matt, now wearing his pajamas, sits on the couch working on the 3000 piece puzzle.

Matt yawns and turns off the lamp by the couch and walks to the bedroom, turning off all the lights on his way.

As he passes by the half-bathroom in the hallway we see light peeking underneath the door. He knocks on the door.

MATT  
Are you coming to bed?

JESSICA (O.S.)  
I'll be in later.

MATT  
Are you sure?

She doesn't answer.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Goodnight Jess.

Matt walks into the bedroom and pulls back the comforter and sheets of the well made bed and slips into one side.

He lies on his back and stares up at the ceiling. He lets out a sigh and turns over to look at the empty spot next to him. It looks untouched.

He reaches his hand over the pillow next to him and closes his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - MORNING

Matt sits at the dining room table alone, eating bland cereal with peanut butter and milk. He works on the crossword puzzle from the Newspaper Crossword Puzzle February 26.

He wears his work clothes: button up with slacks

He finishes his breakfast and puts his dishes in the cluttered sink.

Matt goes to the bathroom door and knocks lightly.

MATT  
Honey? Are you feeling any better?

JESSICA (O.S.)  
No

MATT  
You should come out today

He jiggles the door handle

JESSICA (O.S.)

No! Leave me alone!

MATT

Look, sweetie. I love you. But this isn't okay. Alright? Something is wrong and you aren't talking to me. I think...maybe I should bring someone home to talk to you. Someone who could help you with whatever it is that's bothering you.

(Matt waits for her answer)

Maybe Chris would be able to come and --

JESSICA (O.S.)

No. I'm fine.

Matt reluctantly leaves the bathroom door, puts on his coat and work shoes, and grabs his car keys from the table by the front window before heading out the front door.

EXT. FRONT DOOR OF DAWSEN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Matt walks toward his car, a black Toyota Camry 2002, parked in the driveway.

He opens the door of his car and gets in. Then he stares blankly out the windshield.

His eyes trail slowly up to the front door of the house.

He is on the verge of tears.

Then suddenly, Matt breaks. He is frustrated. He yells and pounds on the steering wheel and the dash, he thrashes around in the car.

Finally he settles down as tears start to crawl down his cheek, he starts his car and turns to back out the driveway.

INT. ARCHITECTURE FIRM - LATER IN THE DAY

Matt is at his desk working on his draft of the Miller Project. The big clock on the wall by the front door says 5:00.

Wayne enters from his office.

WAYNE

It's about that time Gents!

Matt and the other JR. ARCHITECTS and INTERNS perk up at Wayne's announcement.

Matt turns off his desk lamp, and fumbles around for his coat before finally pulling it on and starting for the door. Wayne starts after him

WAYNE (CONT'D)

Whoa whoa whoa! What's the rush there turbo?

MATT

I need to get home to make sure everything is okay

WAYNE

Oh, what's going on?

MATT

Jess is sick and she locked herself in the bathroom..

WAYNE

Who?

MATT

Jessica

Wayne stares at Matt

MATT (CONT'D)

My wife

WAYNE

Right....right. Yeah.

MATT

I need to go.

Matt runs out the door before Wayne can get another word out.

Wayne turns to an INTERN.

ON INTERN: what was that all about?

Wayne shrugs

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - LATER

Matt enters and shakes off the snow from his coat and shoes as he yells...

MATT  
Jess?

No answer

MATT (CONT'D)  
Jessica??

Frantic, he runs to the still closed bathroom door. The door is locked and he fights to open the door.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Jess! Are you okay? Answer me!

JESSICA (O.S.)  
I'm fine

Matt gives a huge sigh of relief

MATT  
Oh...oh thank God.

JESSICA (O.S.)  
I'm fine

MATT  
I need you to come out

JESSICA (O.S.)  
No

MATT  
Why not?

JESSICA (O.S.)  
I can't

MATT  
Well you need to...sweetie.

JESSICA (O.S.)  
I need to?!

MATT  
Yes! You need to!

JESSICA (O.S.)  
Why?



MATT

Jess.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Why?!

MATT

You're carrying our child!

JESSICA (O.S.)

You don't think I know that!?

MATT

No! I don't think you realize that!

There's silence.

MATT (CONT'D)

I don't think you realize that you absolutely need to get out of that damn bathroom. You're holding our child. Our FIRST CHILD. I really don't want anything to go wrong! I don't want to lose this one!

Matt immediately regrets saying that.

MATT (CONT'D)

Jess... oh Jess... I --

JESSICA (O.S.)

YOU... WHAT?!

MATT

I'm so...I'm so --

JESSICA (O.S.)

You don't want to lose this one?  
You think I'm going to lose this one too?

MATT

I just...I'm scared. I don't want you to...harm yourself.

(a beat)

I haven't seen you for two days!  
You just barricaded yourself in this bathroom! How am I supposed to act?! I couldn't live with myself if anything happened to you or our baby girl. So please just... please come out of that bathroom, honey. Maybe even just open the door so... so I can see your face...

**(MORE)**

**MATT (CONT'D)**

(he leans his forehead on  
the door)

Jess... Please. I'm sorry. I know  
you've been stressed...sweetie. I  
understand.

JESSICA (O.S.)

You don't understand

MATT

Then help me understand.

Matt waits for her response. Then slowly slides down the door  
to sit on the floor and lean against the door. We hear  
crying.

MATT (CONT'D)

Jess?

The crying stops.

MATT (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry Jess

JESSICA (O.S.)

Can you just... Can you just stay  
with me?

MATT

Yes... I can stay here. I will  
always be here for you.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Matt?

MATT

Yes

JESSICA (O.S.)

I'm sorry.

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - EVENING - A FEW DAYS LATER

We are shown a series of pictures of the mess in the house.

- The bedroom has clothes strewn about. Although only one  
side of the bed is a mess, the other is perfectly made and  
untouched.

- The table by the front window has an unfinished puzzle on  
top of it as well as a wallet and car keys

- The coffee table has the Newspaper Crossword Puzzle dated February 26, 2009

Wearing his pajamas, Matt lies on the living room floor. His hands are folded across his stomach.

A phone rings.

Matt turns his head and looks up at the coffee table. On top of the coffee table is a cell phone, lit up and ringing.

Matt turns back and lets the phone ring.

He waits for the phone to finish ringing. A beat. Then the phone rings again. He gets up and answers the phone.

MATT

Hello?...oh hey Chris....No...Just Working on my puzzles. Just like...just like any other uh... Saturday...No she's still not feeling well...Haven't seen her yet this morning...yeah....Oh I forgot. Can we maybe uh...

(Matt perks up)

Actually, yeah. That's a uh...a good idea. I want her to talk to you. Yeah...yeah see you soon.

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - LATER

Matt is still lying on the floor in his pajamas. There's a knock on the door.

MATT

Come on in!

Chris lets himself in and is shocked to see Matt lying on the floor. He surveys the rest of the house that he can see from the door, observing the many unfinished puzzles and cluttered kitchen.

CHRIS

Matt...

MATT

Ya.

CHRIS

Matt...you wanted me to talk to...Jessica?

Matt quickly gets up and starts for the closed bathroom door. He gently knocks on the door.

MATT

Jess? Chris is here.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Chris? Why is Chris here

MATT

Honey, look...I brought Chris here to talk to you. You're not talking to me, you've been in there for a week. You need to come out.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Chris. Thanks for coming. But I don't need a shrink. I'm fine.

Chris doesn't answer. Matt turns to Chris: why won't he answer?

CHRIS

Oh. Oh... Sorry...Jess. I...I can't hear you.

Matt stares at Chris, confused. But then turns back to the door.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

It'd be really helpful if you came out of the bathroom so I could hear you...

JESSICA (O.S.)

Actually, right now isn't a good time. Maybe just come by next week?

MATT

Darling, please. It's been too long. You're...you're sick, you haven't been eating...I haven't seen you. I need to see you. You've locked yourself in the bathroom. I never see --

JESSICA (O.S.)

I'm fine. I just need to be on my own. The baby is fine...

Chris walks to the coffee table. He picks up the Newspaper Crossword Puzzle dated February 26

MATT

No. You're not getting any better.  
Get out of the bathroom.

JESSICA (O.S.)

No

MATT

You have to come out. What happens  
when the baby comes?! You need to  
come out. Chris is here. Just come  
out and talk. Talk to Chris...

CHRIS

Matt...

(rests hand on Matt's  
shoulder)

She's not going to come out.

MATT

Yes she will. She has to.

CHRIS

Matt...she's not coming out.

MATT

I miss her.

CHRIS

I know you do

(a beat)

We all do.

(a beat)

Matt, I need to ask you something

MATT

Sure

CHRIS

**This crossword puzzle you've been  
working on... It's from last  
month's newspaper...**

MATT

It's very uh...difficult.

CHRIS

It's from February 26th

MATT

February 26th...

**There's a glimpse of recognition in Matt's eyes.**

CHRIS

Do you remember what was on the front page?

MATT

There was uh...an accident...

JESSICA

Honey?

MATT

It was a...collision. At the intersection...NE Washington or...South...West Jefferson...

CHRIS

...The intersection of 23rd and SW Lincoln.

MATT

SW Lincoln...they were...trying to merge...but...

CHRIS

...Matt...This is the crash that...that killed...Jessica

Matt slides against the hallway wall to the floor.

MATT

The woman in the second vehicle was found to be...5 months pregnant.

Matt leans his head against the bathroom door.

MATT (CONT'D)

No...no...she was fine. The woman...she came out of that accident fine. She came home that night. She was tired so she just went straight to bed...she...she came home. Jessica was fine.

CHRIS

Matt, she didn't come home.

Matt knocks on the bathroom door.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Jessica didn't come home.

MATT

Jessica? Darling? Are you okay?

CHRIS

Matt...

MATT

Sweetheart? Jessica, Darling,  
please. It's me. Please open the  
door. I love you.

CHRIS

Matt...

MATT

I miss you.

Matt remains on the floor by the bathroom door, his hand on the doorknob, and he breaks into tears. Then, in a whispering voice:

MATT (CONT'D)

Jessica, please.

He slowly opens the door. The bathroom is empty.

Long silent beat.

Matt processes what Chris has just revealed.

Matt breaks into a helpless sob.

Chris joins Matt on the floor and wraps an arm around him to comfort him.

FADE TO:

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Matt is silently sitting with his back resting against the wall, the bathroom door still open.

Chris is in the kitchen cleaning up. There's 8 old plates of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and peas covered in plastic wrap in the fridge.

CHRIS(V.O.)

Jessica would want you to be  
strong, Matt. I...This is something  
that none of us could have seen  
coming. Jessica was always...happy,  
grateful for everything in her  
life, everything was a blessing.

(MORE)

**CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)**  
**She would want you to heal, and to  
 take care of yourself. Matt...**

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Matt stands in front of a tombstone that reads: JESSICA  
 DAWSEN, 1983-2009 // MONICA DAWSEN, BORN AS AN ANGEL

MATT (V.O.)  
 I never got to say goodbye

CHRIS (V.O.)  
 You were there for her, Matt. You  
 helped every one of us through the  
 grieving. You were the rock for me  
 and Sammy. Matt...you need to give  
 yourself a chance to just, let go  
 and lean on someone else. You've  
 kept so much in and...

(beat)

You are always welcome to talk to  
 me and Samantha. But you really  
 need someone to medically help you  
 through this...help you with the  
 depression and...hallucinations...

Lilacs and roses lay at the bottom of the tombstone and tears  
 roll down Matt's face.

MATT  
 I'm not ready to say goodbye.

CUT TO:

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - DAY - 2 YEARS LATER

Matt walks into the bathroom in his bedroom.

He stares at his reflection in the mirror, then down at the 3  
 prescription bottles on the counter. They're all full

INT. DAWSEN HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt is finishing a puzzle at the coffee table.

The house is clean.

Matt places the last piece of the puzzle, smiles, and turns  
 off the lamp.



MATT (V.O.)  
I don't want to say goodbye

He walks to his bedroom, passing by the closed bathroom door  
in the hallway.

**The light beams underneath the bathroom door.**

**Matt pauses in front of the door.**

MATT  
Jess? Are you still here?

JESSICA (O.S.)  
Of course dear.

MATT  
(smiles)  
Goodnight Jess, I love you.

FADE TO BLACK.

As fade to black, we hear:

JESSICA  
I will always be here with you.