

THE SPOTLESS LADYBUG

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. SIDEWALK OF SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 1

PARENTS chat. BUS pulls up, doors open and a row of KIDS, (10 - 12) trample out. Bus drives off as families head home.

KATE, (10), a princess with a colorful BACKPACK looks around and puts a bedazzled PHONE to her ear. MISSY, (10), tabs Kate's shoulder while holding her FATHER's hand.

MISSY

Want me to wait with you?

KATE

They're just late... again.

MISSY

Okay. Byeee.

Missy gives Kate a hug and exits.

Kate sits on the curb listening to the ring.

PHONE

"If you would like to leave a voicemail..."

She hangs up, grunts and sees a SPOTLESS LADYBUG on her shoe. She jumps.

KATE

Ew!

Kate looks around for one last time, puts her phone in her backpack and stomps on home.

2 EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY 2

Kate nears her cookie cutter house and sees a bunch of GARAGE ITEMS carelessly scattered in the space between a TRUCK and SUV. The space where all the stuff resides, is big enough for another car.

Kate tries to connect the dots but shrugs it off.

3 INT. HOUSE - FORYE - DAY 3

The knob turns, Kate enters and takes her SHOES off. On the floor are a pair of ADULT SHOES.

KATE
Mom, Dad. I'm home.

She walks through the entry and up the -

4 STAIRS 4

- in her light pink SOCKS.

KATE
Why weren't you at the bus stop?
Are we having a Tuesday garage sale
or something?

5 UPSTAIRS FORYE 5

KATE
Anyone home?

Silence. She sets her backpack on the floor, unzips it,
retrieves her phone.

YELLING comes from down the hall.

6 HALL 6

Kate peaks from around the corner and sees a cracked open
door at the end of a dark hall. The yelling comes from it.

Kate gulps and nears.

She reaches out, pushes the cracked door slowly open to find -

7 DAD'S OFFICE 7

DAD, (40s), a businessman with a sweat drenched dress shirt.
He sits in an OFFICE CHAIR with his head in his hand and a
PHONE to his ear. He listens. Doesn't see Kate.

The space is ransacked. Files are all over the place.

Kate breathes in to speak but -

Dad jolts up and screams into the phone. Kate jumps.

DAD
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT, SHUT, SHUT,
SHUT UP! ... SHUT UP! You listen to
me now!

(MORE)

DAD (CONT'D)
 I had nothing to do with this - NO!
 You're incorrect - SHUT UP!

Kate is shaking but goes up to Dad and tugs on his shirt.
 He looks down at her. Realizes she has seen a monster.

KATE
 What's wrong, daddy?

Dad looks at her emotionless.

DAD
 Go find your mother.

Kate goes to the door and starts to close it until -

DAD (CONT'D)
 Kate.

Kate stops and looks back at him through the door crack.

DAD (CONT'D)
 Everything's going to be okay.

KATE
 Okay.

9 HALL

9

Kate closes the door behind her and stands there for a moment
 in the dark. The YELLING from the office proceeds.

She pulls out her phone. The screen lights up her face. Puts
 it to her ear and it RINGS... and RINGS... and RINGS.

PHONE
 "If you would like to leave a
 voicemail..."

Kate exits with determination. An empty dark hall.

KATE (V.O.)
 MOMMY!

8 MASTER BEDROOM

8

Kate runs to a door, turns the knob, swings it open and -

KATE
 Mom are you in - ?

Empty. Kate sees the bed's MATTRESS is halfway slid off the bed frame. She walks through into the -

9 MASTER BATH 9

Another door... Kate opens and peaks her head in.

Nothing here except for a open cabinet and a scattering of PILLS on the counter.

Kate runs out.

10 GUEST BEDROOM 10

Kate runs to a door, turns, swings -

KATE

Mom?

Nothing.

11 KATE'S ROOM 11

Door, knob, swing. Nothing.

She enters to sit on the bed but then sees something.

Through the window, Kate sees strangers eyeballing and picking up a few items from the driveway.

KATE

Hey!

She runs out.

12 STAIRS 12

Kate races down the stairs, slips, but catches her footing.

A VOICE is suddenly heard downstairs.

KATE

Mom.

13 LIVING ROOM 13

Kate slides into the room to find their TV flickering on and off. It has a shattered screen and covered in some type of liquid. The news caster on the program cuts in and out.

NEWS CASTER

Reports have just - CEO of - which
sponsors - for - has taken calls -
the likes of - dangerous to -

A picture of Kate's father is shown on the news.

Kate breathes in and out deeply. She pulls out her phone,
calls mom and runs.

14

KITCHEN

14

Kate races through listening to the ringing.

KATE

Pick up! Pick up! Pick - AH!

Halfway through, Kate limps, leans against the countertop and
looks at the bottom of her foot.

A broken piece of glass is lodged. Kate freaks out.

PHONE

"If you would like to leave a
voicemail..."

The floor is covered with broken glass. Only now does Kate
see the open cabinet with a few dinner glasses missing.

Kate holds on to her phone and tries to pull the piece out.

KATE

I can't.

Kate hears a faint RUMBLING of a car's engine coming from
the door of the laundry room. She stands.

15

LAUNDRY ROOM

15

Kate limps. Her soggy sock turns red.

A PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER resides on the floor.

She puts her ear to the door and hears a car engine running.

Kate notices the KEY HOOK HOLDER, hung on the wall, only has
two sets of CAR KEYS. Below the hook titled, "mommy," are her
SUV keys, below the hook titled, "daddy," are his truck keys
and the hook titled, "daddy's baby," no car keys are seen.

She pounds on the door.

KATE

Open the door! Mommy, open this door!

Turns the knob and finds it locked.

KATE (CONT'D)

What?

Kate sees the screwdriver, picks it up, searches all around the knob for the screws but has no luck.

KATE (CONT'D)

Why is it backwards?!

She looks at the key insert and limps into the -

16

KITCHEN

16

Kate goes to the junk drawer, finds a collection of KEYS and yanks the drawer out of the cabinet.

17

LAUNDRY ROOM

17

Kate plops the drawer on the floor, grabs a handful of keys and inserts each one into the lock.

One doesn't work, she pulls it out and tosses it.

She tries another, finds it isn't right, toss.

Insert, turn, no. Toss!

Kate grabs one more key. Inserts it, turns and unlocks the knob! She goes to open the door, pulls and it won't budge.

There's a deadbolt and it is also reinstalled backwards.

Kate inserts the key, rotates it and then it breaks off.

Kate sinks to the floor, looks at the broken key in her shaking hand, drops it and peers at the door. She screams.

The engine rumbles.

She buries her face in her arms and cries her heart out.

Kate collects herself, raises her head and looks at her bloody foot. She cries some more.

Kate looks around for her phone, finds it and calls mom.

It rings, it rings and it rings to finally go to -

PHONE

"If you would like to leave a
voicemail..."

She puts the phone down and looks at her foot.

Kate pinches the piece of glass, winces and pulls it out.
Tosses it in the drawer full of keys.

She sits there in a gaze.

The rumbling continues.

Kate can't stop looking at the collection of keys and then
her eyes widen.

She sits up straight and breathes in.

Kate looks at the keys, then at the door and then at the SUV
keys on the "mommy" hook.

She stands and grabs the SUV keys off the hook.

She stumbles out of the room leaving the phone on the floor.

18 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

18

The front door swings open and Kate limps out. She makes her
way as fast as she can across the lawn.

She walks around the truck, points the key fob at the SUV and
presses the button to unlock the car.

The SUV beeps.

Kate hobbles through the items in the driveway nearing the
SUV, drops the keys and opens the driver's door.

19 INT. SUV - DAY

19

Kate props herself on the seat and looks at the dashboard.
Folds down the driver's sun visor, then the passenger's sun
visor and finally opens the center console!

KATE

Yes!

She reaches in, pulls out a GARAGE DOOR OPENER.

20 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

20

Kate stumbles out of the SUV, hits the button on the opener and watches the garage door rise.

Black fog pours out of the crease and then the door stops, but the sound of the gear keeps going alongside the rumbling of the car's engine.

KATE

No!

Kate runs at the garage door, trips over an item and picks herself up.

21 GARAGE DOOR

21

She grabs the bottom of the door and tries to lift it.

KATE

MOM!

Kate bangs on the garage door and tears up.

KATE (CONT'D)

Help me!

The door lifts up and the exhaust escapes the room.

The engine rumbling is louder.

Kate lifts the door all the way up as high as her arms can go. Exhaust rushes out.

Kate coughs, turns her face, but keeps the door up.

The room gets clear of smoke.

Kate opens her eyes, turns her head and sees her MOTHER, (40s), an elegant woman in a dress throw the windshield sitting in the driver's seat of a VINTAGE 1960's SPORTS CAR.

Her head lies back on the head rest and her hand is propped outside of the window, lifeless.

KATE (CONT'D)

MOMMY!

Kate lets go of the door, runs in and the door slams down behind her in.

22 EXT. HOUSE 22

From the garage door, we pull back to showcase the house and listen to nothing but the rumbling engine.

CUT TO BLACK.

(Alternative ending):

FADE TO:

23 NEIGHBORHOOD 23

Two KIDS runs up to their DAD after pulling in from work.

A happy COUPLE walks their dog.

An ELDER waters their flowers on the front porch.

A beautiful moment portraying life in the suburbs.

CUT TO:

24 SIDEWALK - DAWN 24

A spotless ladybug crawls along a sidewalk.

Kate sits alone wrapped in a blanket. Her foot is in a bandage.

Police lights flash red and blue.

Her face remains emotionless.

The officer walks up to her.

OFFICER
May I sit?

Kate doesn't move.

Officer sits beside Kate and looks at her.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
It's going to be okay. Okay?

Kate doesn't acknowledge the officer.

She notices the bug, positions her foot and lets it crawl onto the top of her bandage.

FADE TO BLACK.