

Never Can Say Good-bye

By

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original work

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EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN TOWN: DAY

A combination of mansions and modern buildings, Coyote Springs grew up from the lumber industry that prospered until the treeline moved north. Bellows University small college built in the 1950s.

EXT. BELLOW'S UNIVERSITY: DAY

Ivy-covered older buildings intermix with modern buildings. ELIZABETH DOWNING (An ambivalent woman in her 40's.) WALKS from the parking lot toward the administration building.

EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF CEMETERY: DAY

The newer section to the older section to an elaborately fenced-in section on top of a hill.

EXT. OLDER SECTION OF THE CEMETERY: DAY

More like a multi-colored rose garden than a family plot, it contains a single headstone, which reads "Sara Jane Bellows Beloved Wife and Mother. May 17, 1936 - September 14, 1956. Forever love never dies". A child angel and lamb sit next to it.

EXT. OLDER SECTION OF THE CEMETERY: DAY

Down the hill to another elaborate fenced-in family plot, which has been neglected, containing three graves with basic headstones Randolph Matthew Bellows. Born January 16, 1932. Died April 13, 1961. Audrey Sanderson Bellows Born March 14, 1938 Died May 15, 1984. Randi Jane Bellows Born May 2, 1956 Died December 23, 1961.

INT. AMANDA'S SITTING ROOM: DAY

AMANDA (70+ year old woman, who refuses to be slowed down by the stroke that nearly killed her) sits in her wheelchair in front of a full length mirror. Her image is that of a much younger and healthier woman. RANDY (7 year old girl) only appears in the mirror as she stands beside Amanda.

AMANDA

It's almost time my darling.

(CONTINUED)

RANDY  
Will they remember me?

AMANDA  
Of course. That's why they have  
come back.

RANDY  
I hope so. I've been so lonely.

AMANDA  
Soon you will never be lonely  
again.

RANDY  
I love you, Auntie Mandy.

Randy turns and vanishes. Appearing older, Amanda has difficulty breathing.

AMANDA  
My darling, soon we both will be  
free.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE HIDDEN ROOM: DAY

Using a crowbar, MICHAEL SCOTT (A man in his late 40s, who looks more like a lumberman than a college professor) pries the panel from the wall and exposes a door. He turns the door knob.

INT. HIDDEN ROOM. DAY

Michael shines the flashlight around the room. The beam hits the cracked mirror and reflects onto a rocking chair. THE OBSERVER (camera showing the ghost's perspective) WATCHES Michael. Michael tries to open the window; it's nailed shut. SHANE SCOTT (A woman in her mid 20's who believes the world is her toy.) WALKS into the doorway.

SHANE  
(angrily)  
What did you do? This isn't our  
house.

MICHAEL  
(startled)  
Amanda was happy I found it.

Shane nervously walks around. The Observer examines her. She sees her image in the mirror distort and morph; Shane screams and runs out.

INT. HALLWAY AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS: DAY

Michael catches up with Shane at the top of the stairs.

MICHAEL  
What's the matter?

SHANE  
I told you what it did to my  
family.

MICHAEL  
It's just an old house. No ghosts  
or curses.

SHANE  
I hate it!

MICHAEL  
(kissing her neck)  
That will change.

SHANE  
(pouting)  
Is that supposed to make me feel  
better?

MICHAEL  
No. this is.

The Observer watches them walk into their bedroom. It then goes downstairs.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS: DAY

Judy (50ish women, who using bullying and control to hide her fear and insecurity) and Elizabeth walk passed an elaborate foundation with a statue of Sara Jane and Randolph in the center toward a building.

JUDY  
There is a staff meeting tomorrow  
morning.

Fascinated, Elizabeth stops in front of the fountain. BILL SPEARS (50+something man) quickly walks passed them.

JUDY (CONT.)  
Professor Spears.

Bill reluctantly stops and walks back.

(CONTINUED)

JUDY (CONT.)

Professor Spears, I would like to introduce you to Elizabeth Downing. She has joined our staff. She's a bestselling author.

ELIZABETH

Just for a term.

BILL SPEARS

I enjoy your work.

ELIZABETH

Thank you.

JUDY

Professor Spears is world renown theoretical quantum physicist.

BILL SPEARS

I'm also a ghost hunter, snappy dresser, certified smart ass, and -

JUDY

(cutting him off)

Don't be late for the meeting tomorrow.

BILL SPEARS

(walking away)

We aim to please.

JUDY

(continuing down the sidewalk)

I'll introduce you to the rest of the staff then.

ELIZABETH

(genuine interest)

It's beautiful.

JUDY

(irritated)

It's a memorial to my father's first wife.

Elizabeth reads the memorial plate "Forever love never dies."

ELIZABETH

He must have loved her very much.

(CONTINUED)

JUDY  
(continues down the sidewalk)  
Saturday is the annual Bellow's  
Ball. It's our primary fundraiser.

ELIZABETH  
(sadly to herself)  
Too bad the forever love doesn't  
really exist.

JUDY  
(impatiently)  
Ms. Downing! Your office is in  
here.

INT. RAMSDELL OFFICE BUILDING HALLWAY: DAY

Elizabeth follows Judy inside.

JUDY  
The Bellow's Ball is Saturday. This  
year we are doing a period theme.

ELIZABETH  
I'll try to be there.

JUDY  
It's a requirement for the  
staff. The Theater Department has  
suitable costumes.

Judy unlocks the first door and pushes it open.

ELIZABETH  
(glancing in)  
Bit much for a temp.

Judy pushes her into the office.

INT. OFFICE. DAY

Overly furnished with the top-of-the-line equipment.

JUDY  
(smugly)  
I'll convince you to stay. Your  
teaching schedule is on your desk.  
We had to add a few classes and one  
more workshop.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH  
(annoyed)  
I agreed to teach three classes and  
two workshops.

JUDY  
We just assumed you wouldn't mind.

ELIZABETH  
Why would you assume that?

JUDY  
You wouldn't want to disappoint  
your fans.

ELIZABETH  
I'm here to teach writing. I sign  
autographs at bookstores.

JUDY  
What is your problem?

ELIZABETH  
I only agreed because James asked.

JUDY  
Like he cares about the family!

ELIZABETH  
He has put his reputation and mine  
on the line.

JUDY  
Too little. Too late.

ELIZABETH  
Your brother is a very good man and  
a better friend.

JEFFERSON THOMAS STUART (JT) WALKS (A man in his late  
20's) into the doorway.

JEFFERSON  
(nervously)  
Mrs. Olson, I need to know what you  
decided.

JUDY  
(angrily)  
It can wait.

JEFFERSON  
No. It can't.

JUDY  
(to Elizabeth)  
Don't forget the staff meeting  
tomorrow morning.

Judy angrily leaves.

JEFFERSON  
Jefferson Stuart. JT.

ELIZABETH  
Elizabeth Downing.

JUDY (OS)  
Well?

Jefferson meekly follows. LYNNE MASON SLIPS (A strong, independent woman in her 40/50s) appears in the doorway.

LYNNE  
Lynne Mason. Psychologist.  
Parapsychologist. Neighbor  
extraordinaire. Bill sent me to  
rescue you. but it seems she has  
found another whipping boy.

ELIZABETH  
How nice.

LYNNE  
My office and lab are in rooms  
one-o-four and one-o-five. Need  
anything just ask.

Lynne steps away from the door.

ELIZABETH  
That's it?

LYNNE  
Darlin', you just spent most of the  
day with Madam Judy. You can't  
handle anything else.

Lynne leaves. Elizabeth stares at the fountain.

INT. BEDROOM: DAY

Facing opposite directions, Michael and Shane sleep. Michael hears Sara Jane singing and Randy laughing.

INT. HALLWAY: DREAM TIME

Getting out of bed, Michael walks down the hall toward the sound of Randy giggling and Sara Jane singing her lullaby.

INT. HIDDEN ROOM 1950: DREAMTIME

The bedroom of a loving couple that would have been fashionable in the 1950s. The hidden room is bright and cheerful. Sara Jane rocks Randy and sings her lullaby. Michael steps into the room.

RANDY  
(happily)  
Papa!

SARA JANE  
(lovingly)  
Randolph, we've missed you.

SHANE (OS)  
Michael? Where are you?

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE HIDDEN ROOM: DREAMTIME

Michael looks in the direction of Shane's voice. Instead of Shane, Audrey angrily stands in the hallway.

AUDREY  
(enraged)  
You never could stay away from her!

Behind Audrey, Shane walks out of their bedroom and down the hallway. Shane melts into Audrey.