

RUBY

By

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EXT. DEATH'S BEACH. DAY.

A dark-haired young man stands topless on an icy, cold beach, with skies above, grey and threatening rain. JAMES looks out into the sea.

Slowly, he enters the water, step by step, and with great struggle, begins to swim into the deep.

He pauses, closes his eyes, and draws a last breath.

BLACKOUT.

EXT. LOVER'S BEACH. DAY.

He opens his eyes. The sun is shining through the water. A different place.

With new energy, he swims ashore. There is a red-headed woman at the foot of the beach, and another man approaches her swiftly. At the top of the beach, in the background, stands a single blond woman looking down, silent.

RUBY

(Throws letters and
photographs into the sea in
great distress. She mutters
under her breath.)

Fuck. I'm so stupid. How could I be
so stupid?

HARRY

(Runs in behind)

Ruby! Stop! Stop this.

(He attempts to save the
documents from the water.)

You're not stupid. It's me. Stop,
Ruby, please stop.

HARRY goes to RUBY and tries to take her by the arms, but she struggles and pulls away.

RUBY

(screaming at the top of her
voice)

Get off of me!

She breaks down to tears. HARRY notices JAMES in the sea.

HARRY

(shouting at him)

What are you looking at? Get out of
here! Jeez.

(CONTINUED)

(upon seeing him unmoved)
Are you deaf or something? Piss
off.

He walks out towards JAMES who, panicked, swims back out to sea quickly, being tossed by the waves. He is swept under, and closes his eyes.

BLACKOUT.

EXT. MEMORY'S BEACH. NIGHT.

JAMES is lost in the dark. He swims in any direction, and reaches the shore, where he crawls out breathlessly.

A father and his young daughter, 6 years old at maximum, sit on a deck chair by a portable lamplight. At the head of the beach, there is a beach house emitting muffled dance music.

DAUGHTER
Where's mummy?

FATHER
Sweetheart, mummy's not here
anymore.

DAUGHTER
I know that. But where is she?

FATHER
She's gone, love. She's gone away.

The girl sinks into the chair, and does not say anything. The father stares out at the sea for a second, and then he takes hold of his daughter and tickles her. She laughs like it were her last laugh.

FATHER
(seeing a light in the
distance, and pointing to it)
Look. Look. Do you see that?

DAUGHTER
What?

FATHER
Wait for it.
(They wait. A lighthouse light
flashes.)
There. Did you see it?

(CONTINUED)

DAUGHTER

Yes!

FATHER

That's a lighthouse. Do you know what a lighthouse is?

DAUGHTER

We learnt about them.

FATHER

You did? Do you know what they do?

DAUGHTER

(hesitantly)

They light up the sea when it's dark.

FATHER

Yeah, that's it! They do. They light it up so that the people on boats can know they're near land. It keeps them safe from rocks on the shore.

(Pause.)

You know what I think? I think Mummy's out there somewhere, at sea. And even though we don't know where, love, we know that no matter what, she's safe there. Because of the lighthouse.

DAUGHTER

But daddy, why is she not here with us?

FATHER

I don't know, sweetie. None of us know that. But I do know that she loves you, and she's at peace now.

DAUGHTER shivers in the cold, and the FATHER lifts her up and they walk off up the beach.

JAMES takes to the sea again. His eyes close.

BLACKOUT.

EXT. THE LAST BEACH. DAY.

JAMES sprawls out onto the shore. The beach is vast and empty. A strong wind blows. He sits on the sand, facing the sea. Long pause.

An old man, wearing a hefty coat and carrying another, grips JAMES' shoulder from nowhere.

OLD MAN
(handing him the coat)
You look cold, lad.

The old man sits down next to JAMES and stares outwardly.

OLD MAN
So, what brings you here?
(observing the silence)
Never really liked it here, m'self.
The wife brought me here when we
was kids. She'd hate me saying it,
god rest her soul, but it's quite
boring up here on your own.
(He sighs.)
Couldn't quite bring myself to
leave it though. It's a piece of
them, isn't it?

The old man glances at JAMES and pulls a bottle of whiskey from beneath his coat. He offers it to him.

OLD MAN
The last beach. That's what those
bastard romantics called it.
(Pause.)
Still.

He rises heavily.

JAMES
Where are you going?

OLD MAN
Away, my lad. Just away.

JAMES
To where?
(He looks around.)
There's nowhere to go.

OLD MAN
There's always places to go, son.
I'll take a wander up to the
lighthouse.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES
Lighthouse?

OLD MAN
That's right. My Ruby loves it
there, ever since she were a girl.
Reminds her of her mother. And now
it reminds me of her. Funny that.
(He turns to leave.)

JAMES
Please. Wait.

OLD MAN
I wouldn't go back in that water
again though; you'll catch your
death.

The old man grows more distant.

JAMES
I don't- I don't know where to go!

OLD MAN
Then just walk in any direction,
lad. It's got to take you
somewhere.

JAMES jumps to his feet, but his body is heavy and he slowly
falls back down like he had fallen ill. His eyes close.

BLACKOUT.

EXT. DEATH'S BEACH. DAY.

He lies flat on his back on the first beach. A LIFEGUARD
tugs at his arm.

LIFEGUARD
Hello! Can you hear me? Hello.
You're safe. Everything's fine. Are
you with me?

JAMES sits up with the help of the lifeguard.

LIFEGUARD
What the hell were you thinking,
mate? Didn't you see the flag?

JAMES
I'm fine.

He stands up and tries to walk away.

(CONTINUED)

LIFEGUARD

What the hell are you doing? Just wait. Just sit down.

JAMES

No, I've got to go. How do I get off? Where do I go?

LIFEGUARD

Are you sure? Mate, you nearly drowned.

JAMES

Please. Which way?

LIFEGUARD

Alright. Just walk in any direction, it'll take you somewhere off the beach.

JAMES

What?

LIFEGUARD

I said... Just walk in any direction and it has to take you somewhere.

JAMES looks at him strangely, then walks off uneasily, pulling out a pendant from his trouser pocket. He opens it up. A picture of him and RUBY lies within.

BLACKOUT.