

Finding William

By

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Logline: After the tragic loss of his wife can William find
the strength to move forward with his life and find love
again?

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INT BEDROOM - MORNING

FADE IN:

It's an early Tuesday morning in September in the bedroom of WILLIAM and his wife JOANN'S New York City apartment when the alarm clock brings the couple to life, 5am.

WILLIAM

Umph, it's not time yet, too early.

JOANN

I know but I have to go in early today. They called an emergency board meeting so I have to be there.

WILLIAM

Mmmh, come on, you can stay a few more minutes.

He kisses her neck gently.
Tell them it's not an emergency unless you say it is.

He kisses her neck again.

JOANN

(sarcastically) Yeah, like that'll work.

WILLIAM

Well, maybe this will. (Kisses and teases her).

JOANN

That's a start (giggles).

William stares lovingly into Joann's eyes.

WILLIAM

I love you.

JOANN

And I love you.

WILLIAM

Don't know what I'd do with out you.

William kisses her neck lightly and again. Just as they start to get more intimate Joann's cell rings.

(CONTINUED)

JOANN
(annoyed) Argh, not now!

Joann reaches for her cell phone as William continues kissing her neck.

WILLIAM
Leave it, it can wait.

JOANN
Oh I wish. (answers phone) Hello.

Steve, Joann's co-corker is calling, in a panic about the morning's meeting. Joann is annoyed by Steve's call interrupting Joann and William's intimate moment.

JOANN (CONT'D)
Yes Steve, yes I have the report....and the handouts...and the presentation. (beat) What do you mean the revised version?

William stops kissing Joann's neck as it becomes apparent the call will be longer than expected.

WILLIAM
I'll make some coffee.

William exits as Joann continues talking on the phone.

JOANN
Yeah alright, send me the revived version and I'll read it before I get there...

CUT TO:

INT BEDROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

William enters the bedroom holding a cup of coffee and a plate containing a cream cheese smeared bagel.

WILLIAM
I made you breakfast. Well, at least something for breakfast anyway.

JOANN
Thanks sweetheart. I'll probably have to eat it on the run though. Hey, I have an idea. Both of us have been so busy lately we haven't
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOANN (cont'd)
had a nice romantic dinner in a
while. Why I don't I make your
favorite, lack of lamb tonight.

WILLIAM
Thanks honey. That would be amazing
but I can't. Tonight is the kick
off event for the new product line.

JOANN
Sorry, I forgot. You doing anything
Friday night?

WILLIAM
Friday night is perfect.

They kiss then embrace for a minute until...

JOANN
Honey...

WILLIAM
Hm.

JOANN
(whispers gently) I have to
go.

WILLIAM
(releasing his embrace) Oh
sorry, don't want to make you
late.

JOANN
(with a quick peck on the lips)
Love you babe. See you tonight.

Joann grabs her purse and exits.

WILLIAM
Ok. Love you too.

EXT CONFERENCE ROOM AT WILLIAM'S WORKPLACE - MORNING

William arrives at work and begins talking with his team
about the day's activities. Sarah, an assistant quickly
strides into the conference room just before William makes
it to the entrance.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM
Morning Sarah.

SARAH
Good morning Mr. Morgan.

INT CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

WILLIAM
Morning everyone. I want to make sure we're set for the product launch event tonight. Sam, make sure the presenter has the script changes. Oh and that goes for the lighting and sound crew as well. Any hick-up will throw off the timing and make us look like amateurs. Sarah, make sure all the local media have been contacted and confirm how many...

The meeting is interrupted by a co-worker who enters the room with a grim look on his face and urgent news.

DAN
William...William, you need to turn on the TV now.

Dismayed, William grabs the remote and turns on the television in the conference room.

The news broadcasts live reports of the World Trade Center's first tower.

We're close in on William's face as the realization of what has happened sets in.

SLOW FADE TO BLACK

SILENCE FOR 2-3 SECONDS

EXT. CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

William and Joann's FAMILY is gathered in the cemetery for their final goodbyes. The PRIEST is giving the service.

PRIEST
...To take unto himself the soul of our dear sister here departed, we therefore commit her body to the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRIEST (cont'd)

ground; earth to earth, ashes to
ashes, dust to dust. Amen.

As Joann's casket is being lowered into the ground, William places a rose on top of the casket then a handful of dirt. He is obviously crying but suddenly his cries turn to wails and he drops to his knees next to the casket. As William weeps uncontrollably, his mother moves beside him to comfort him. She helps William to his feet and they walk away from the grave site with his head on her shoulder.

WILLIAM

What am I going to do now? How am I
going to get along without her? She
was my world!

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - ONE MONTH LATER - AFTERNOON

The living room is silent as the camera slowly moves through the room. Pizza boxes, fast food wrappers and other trash litter the floor and furniture. Numerous liquor and beer bottles, some empty others half empty also litter the room. As the camera moves through the room, the phone rings 4 times. The answering machine picks up with William and Joann's voice on the outgoing message.

ANSWERING MACHINE (WILLIAM - VO)

Hi, thanks for calling. This is
William...

ANSWERING MACHINE (JOANN - VO)

...And Joann...

ANSWERING MACHINE (WILLIAM & JOANN - VO)

(together) And we're not here
right now so leave us a
message. Bye.

The camera finds William sitting in his recliner, drunk and slumped over to one side holding a mostly empty liquor bottle in one hand and William and Joann's wedding photo in the other. William has a far away gaze in his eyes. He grows angry as he hears the outgoing message. Joann's mother's voice is heard on the machine.

JOANN'S MOM

William? Honey, if you're there
please pick up. (pause) William? We
haven't heard from you in a couple
of weeks and we're getting worried.
(pause) Please honey, just let us
know you're okay. We love you.

(CONTINUED)

As the message ends, William lets out a guttural yell and throws the liquor bottle across the room, hitting the opposite wall. He then smashes the wedding photo. Upset and weeping, William gets up out of the recliner and swipes the photos from the mantle, angrily yanks the pictures from their frames and throws them into the fireplace.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

William hurriedly removes Joann's clothes, shoes and other belongings out of the closet and puts them in boxes. He continues removing anything from the house that is connected with her.

SLOW FADE OUT:

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - DAY

The camera pans from the For Sale sign on the front lawn of William's house to the driveway where William is saying goodbye to his MOTHER, MOTHER-IN-LAW and FATHER-IN-LAW.

FATHER-IN-LAW

I really wish you would reconsider just up and leaving. You have roots here William.

WILLIAM

That's the problem Frank. Everywhere I look there she is. She's all around here.

MOTHER-IN-LAW

But you're not taking any furniture, not even many of your clothes and you're moving thousands of miles away? Isn't that a bit drastic?

WILLIAM

It's the only way I'm going to be able to move forward with my life. I'm sorry but that's the way it has to be. It's the only way I can survive.

William turns to Frank and takes a set of car keys out of his pocket, handing them to Frank.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

Frank, look after the Healey for me
will you.

William hugs his father-in-law, then his mother-in-law.

MOTHER-IN-LAW

Always remember that we love you
and we're here for you.

WILLIAM

I know and I will always love you
too.

William moves to his mother as tears start to stream down
his face.

WILLIAM

Mom, thanks for your support and
everything else you've done.

WILLIAM'S MOTHER

You're welcome. I know this isn't
easy for you. But it's your
decision so I support you all the
way.

William enters his car and drives off, checks the mirror and
sees his family waiving in the background.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN HIGHWAY - SUNSET OR DUSK

William drives down an almost empty highway as he passes by
a sign welcoming visitors to another state.

CUT TO:

INT. WILLIAM'S CAR

William fiddles with the radio, trying to find a station he
likes, settling on a news station. He sees his cell phone
sitting on the passenger's seat among his wallet, sunglasses
and other personal items. He picks up the phone holding it
in his hand and looks at it, running his thumb over it. He
knows what he has to do but is hesitant. Finding his
courage, he opens the window and tosses the cell phone out
and it lands in the roadway, breaking apart as he continues
down the road.

(CONTINUED)