

In Knots

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1 INT. BEDROOM DAY

JONAH (40) stands looking in the mirror attached to an antique, wooden chest of drawers. He wears a few pieces from different suits. The room stands eerily silent, with only a light breeze blowing the white lace curtain through the open window. Jonah takes a few slow, deep breaths and begins to fidget with his thrown together clothing ensemble.

CECILIA (33), Jonah's sister, enters the room wearing a black dress. She stares at him from the door frame. He sees her in the mirror, glances briefly at her reflection, then continues straightening his clothes. He speaks, almost to himself.

JONAH
I don't have a tie.

She takes a breath and inches closer to him.

CECILIA
You can wear one of his.

JONAH
That doesn't feel right.

CECILIA
Why not? I'll wear one too.

Jonah finally turns to look at her. He offers a tiny, half smile.

JONAH
Do you think she'll be there?

CECILIA
I haven't been able to reach her. The last number I had has been disconnected.

JONAH
Sounds about right.

Cecilia steps further into the room and opens the door of a wardrobe. She mindlessly flips through racks of ties. They stand silently for a moment until Jonah joins her at the wardrobe.

CECILIA
What an amazing collection. The crazier, the better.

JONAH
Is that *one* still there? The frog
with

CECILIA
Oh my god. The tongue that sticks out
through the front? It has to be here.

They begin to sift through the ties in the wardrobe.

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT. BEDROOM DAY (FLASHBACK: 25 YEARS EARLIER)

JONAH (15) sits on the edge of the bed while his father,
JAMES (40) pulls a few ties out of his wardrobe. Jonah seems
anxious and his father appears to be completing his actions
mindlessly.

JAMES
I can't believe my boy is going to
his first dance.

JONAH
Do I have to wear a tie?

JAMES
The invitation on the fridge says,
shirt and tie, so yes, I guess you
do.

JONAH
Do I have to dance?

Cecilia (8) runs into the room.

CECILIA
Jonah has to wear a tie and dance
with a girl.

JONAH
Shut up CeeCee.

James picks out a tie and sits between them on the bed. He
silently hands it to Jonah.

JAMES
You don't have to dance. But, you do
have to wear a tie. Go on.

Jonah hesitates and goes to the mirror on the chest of
drawers. James and Cecilia are seen sitting on the bed.

CECILIA
Go on Jonah. Put it on.

Jonah sets it down.

JONAH
I don't know how.

James gets up and goes to Jonah.

JAMES
I'll show you son.

Jonah turns to his dad and Cecilia watches from the bed as James ties the tie around Jonah's neck. James begins to tear up.

CECILIA
Daddy? Where's Mama? She's not home yet.

Silence except for the breeze blowing in through the open window. Jonah and Cecilia stare at each other as James returns to the bed and sits silently. They join him.

JONAH
Dad?

JAMES
She's not coming back. Your Mom is gone. She left a note if you want to read it.

James breaks down crying. After a pause, Jonah puts his arm around him in a "manly fashion." Cecilia eventually repeats the motion on the other side. Silence for a moment as James cries.

CECILIA
Everybody up. Jonah is all dressed up. Daddy, put on a tie too. I'll put on my dress and let's go have a fancy dinner.

She gets up and heads to the door. She stares at them on the bed.

CECILIA (cont'd)
Chop Chop.

She claps her hands and exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. BEDROOM DAY

Cecilia ties Jonah's tie in the mirror.

CECILIA
I can't believe you forgot how.

JONAH
I can't believe he's gone.

CECILIA
Me neither.

Jonah begins to cry and he slowly lowers himself to hug Cecilia. He cries on her shoulder. She rubs his back for a moment, then pushes him back up.

CECILIA (cont'd)
We have to go.

JONAH
I know.

CECILIA
I have a great idea.

She leaves Jonah standing there, pulling himself together. She pulls all of the ties from the wardrobe and holds them in her arms.

JONAH
What are you...

CECILIA
You drive. Let's go.

She exits the room. Jonah stares after her, then follows.

CUT TO:

4 INT. FUNERAL PARLOR DAY

The room is full of people. James lies in a casket at the front of the room covered with an American Flag. There are flowers in abundance and the funeral has just begun. Cecilia stands and addresses the crowd. Six small children stand at the front, each holding a box of ties.

CECILIA
Thank you all so much for joining us today to celebrate the life of our father, James Quinn.

CECILIA (cont'd)

Before we start, we'd like to share a piece of him with all of you. Daddy loved ties. Crazy. Strange. Odd. He loved to dress up and top it off with an "artistic piece" as he always said. Please pick one out and join us in wearing them during this service.

The children begin to pass the boxes around. The crowd picks out ties and the mood begins to lighten.

DISSOLVE TO:

5 INT. FUNERAL PARLOR DAY

Everyone now wears one of James's ties. The service men fold the flag and hand it to Jonah. He and Cecilia share a glance. The pianist begins to play. Cecilia gently touches his hand and then stands. She goes to the podium.

CECILIA

We are so blessed to have each of you in our lives. Daddy had more friends than anyone deserves and he was a lucky man.

A woman, (63) in a white lace dress sneaks in the back. Cecilia does not notice her at first.

CECILIA (cont'd)

You have all been there for us in so many ways throughout our lives and you are all our family.

Cecilia notices the woman. They lock eyes as Cecilia continues speaking.

CECILIA (cont'd)

And a special thanks to Ms. Laura. Thank you for teaching Daddy to French Braid my hair so it wasn't always knotted up.

The crowd laughs. Cecilia looks at the woman coldly until she slips out as silently as she came in. Jonah notices Cecilia's gaze. He turns to look, but sees only a door closing and a wisp of white antique lace. He turns back to Cecilia. She smiles at him.

FADE TO BLACK!

