

ONE SUMMER NIGHT [WORKING TITLE]
A LIFE IN OUR TIMES [FINAL TITLE]
[FINAL DRAFT]

Written by

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For Bridget;
And anyone afraid right now

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"Since I Don't Have You" by The Skyliners plays.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT - SUMMER

In the heart of a street in modern suburbia. Connor; 15, angry and upset at the unfairness of the world in equal measure; sits in a chair in the middle of the clutter. Next to him directly is a small table, with a lamp and an ashtray on top.

The garage spans over 60 years of history, via the objects that inhabit it. From left to right, starting with the 50s, all the way to present day. This is presented through; pieces of furniture from those periods, knick knacks specific to the times, and pictures framed on the back wall showing horrific events in American history. It's a mural of time. Amongst this is also children toys, bikes, boxes with labels on them, and lawn cleaning devices.

Connor lights a cigarette. He falls back into the chair, with his arms hanging off the side of the chair. He stares towards the ceiling, looking lost in a dream. His cellphone sits faced down on his knee. He takes exaggeratedly long pauses between drags of his cigarette. He attempts to blow smoke rings, and fails miserably, but seems unphased.

After a few beats, his cellphone buzzes. Connor immediately jolts up, and frantically grabs his phone. He now is leaning so far forward it looks like he could fall out of the chair. He unlocks his phone and starts to read a text in haste. His head scans left to right, like he's trying to analyze every single letter. He doesn't like the text. His face slowly starts to get upset, and then goes straight to anger.

As he stands up, he simultaneously chucks his phone deep into the clutter of the garage. He stands there, looking like he's holding back tears, with both hands behind his head. He takes a deep breath, followed by a drag from the cigarette. He exhales and then calms down. He starts to look remorseful. After another moment of standing there he finally goes to try and find his phone.

After quite a few seconds of searching, he returns to his chair, inspecting his phone. This time, he completely slumps into the chair, looking like he's trying to morph into it. He begrudgingly types a very quick reply. After which he sets the phone down, and continues to smoke. He looks annoyed more than anything.

He lets his eyes wander, still working on the cigarette. He gets a text, and more slowly tends to it; just having less interest this time.

He ceases to show emotion, like he's worn out. He types a decent reply before setting the phone down on the table. This has a certain sort of finality to it.

His eyes start to wander again through the garage. After taking a drag, he lets his eyes finally settle outside of the garage. He seems to get fixated on something. A soft smile comes to his face. He continues to smoke his cigarette.

A door can be heard closing. Immediately after footsteps follow, clinking against a wooden floor. The sound of boiling water, and a soft stir, can quietly be heard.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Hey baby.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Hey babe.

A small kiss is heard.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Spaghetti?

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

I hope that's okay?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Of course it is.

A chair is heard scooting, and then someone sitting in it.

Connor stays focused where he has been, letting his head tilt slightly, like a curious dog. His phone buzzes, but he pays no attention to it.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Want a hit? Just sparked it.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Please.

A soft inhale and exhale, followed by a cough are heard.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Connor is staring through the window into the kitchen.

James; 26, is as happy as can be, for a dreamer feeling his dreams fade everyday; stands at the stove, stirring noodles. Next to the noodles is a smaller pot cooking sauce. He takes the joint from Linda;

26, who is very tired, but still maintains a positive air, despite feeling dragged through the mud daily by life; who sits in a chair at the kitchen table. He takes a drag.

The house is gloomy, and kept pretty well together, though it is very clear they are poor. It has sprinkles of togetherness in there, to give it some life.

JAMES

How's your sister?

Linda shakes her head no, and looks down.

LINDA

Not good. She still hasn't been able to stay conscious.

James looks at her, saddened as well. He speaks with all the sincerity in his heart.

JAMES

Damn, that's awful.

LINDA

Well, the fact she is waking up slightly is a good sign they said.

James gives a supportive half smile and nods.

JAMES

That's good at least.

Linda is slowly getting more comfortable, taking off her shoes, and a cardigan she had on. They continue to pass the joint throughout their conversation.

Linda perks up suddenly, like she forgot something.

LINDA

Where's Connor?

James nods behind him, towards the window.

JAMES

The garage.

Linda turns around and looks at Connor.

INT. GARAGE - SAME TIME

Connor is no longer looking through the window but ferociously texting, smoking a new cigarette. He's sitting hunched in the chair.

Linda sounds mildly outraged.

LINDA (O.S.)
Is he smoking a cigarette?

JAMES (O.S.)
Yeah.

LINDA (O.S.)
Yeah?

JAMES (O.S.)
I gave him the rest of my pack.

LINDA (O.S.)
What the hell dude?

JAMES (O.S.)
Come on, he would have just gotten them from someone else.

LINDA (O.S.)
I don't know. I don't think we should be encouraging it. I know Diane doesn't.

JAMES (O.S.)
He seemed pretty upset.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Connor still has his head in his phone, he's practically writing a novel.

James has his back to the stove, he is standing with his arms folded looking at Linda.

LINDA
Why?

James make a face like it should be clear to her, at least a little.

JAMES
Well, obviously your sis-

Linda moves her head, and hands, to signify she now understands, and wants him to continue.

LINDA
Yes, yes, yes, but-

She stands up and heads to a cupboard to grab a cup, and then to the sink to fill it with water. They're still passing the joint.

JAMES

But I also think it's because of that girl. What's her name? Jessica?

LINDA

Oh jeez.

James raises his eyebrows in agreement.

LINDA (CONT'D)

What makes you say that?

JAMES

I mean, he's chucked his phone more than once. I'm surprised it's not broken.

LINDA

So why's that her?

JAMES

He's 15 Linda.

LINDA

Oh sorry Cassanova.

She stands against the counter opposite of James, sipping at her water. She occasionally looks over her shoulder to see Connor, who is kind of a mess right now. James shrugs and turns back to his noodles. He extends his response for dramatic effect.

JAMES

Whatever.

LINDA

I still don't think you should have given them to him.

JAMES

Well it's a little late now.

They have a few moments of silence. Linda looks to the side after passing the joint back to James.

LINDA

Did you go pay the rent today?

James hesitates a moment, before quietly replying.

JAMES

No.

Linda slams her cup down.

LINDA

Seriously?

James turns around and looks at her.

JAMES

I get paid Friday, and I talked to Henry and he said it'd be fine.

LINDA

Eventually it won't be fine. He's not going to let us pay late forever.

She shakes her head. He walks over to her and rubs her arms, which are crossed.

JAMES

I'm sorry. My check wasn't the same last week, when they called off the Warren job, it screwed me.

Linda doesn't respond. James look down, letting go of her arms. He starts to go back towards the noodles. Linda looks a little upset.

Moments pass without anything being said, an uncomfortable silence starts to fill the air. James takes a deep breath, and exhales.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Did you get my Grandma's script filled?

Linda immediately leans her head back.

LINDA

Fuck.

James looks back at her.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I forgot to get it.

James looks a little irritated.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

He very subtly shakes his head no.

JAMES

It's fine. I think she'll be able to make it through tonight.

He turns back to the noodles.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I'll just go before work tomorrow.

Linda looks down.

LINDA

When time do you go in?

JAMES

7.

LINDA

Okay. I'll do some laundry after dinner.

JAMES

Okay.

Beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Thanks.

He turns to look at her. She gives as sincere a smile as possible. He returns it, in the same fashion.

INT. GARAGE - SAME TIME

Connor is now standing against the back wall, both hands on a work table. His head is hanging low. His legs are fully extended. After a second he stands up and grabs a baseball also on the work table. He starts to play catch with himself.

LINDA (O.S.)

Where is your Grandma?

JAMES (O.S.)

She's laying down. She was complaining about her neck all day.

LINDA (O.S.)

When was the last time you checked on her?

JAMES (O.S.)
I don't know. 2 hours ago?

LINDA (O.S.)
I'll see how she's doing.

We hear Linda set her water on the counter and start to walk.

Connor back to his chair, still playing with the baseball. He sits down, again looking towards the window.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - GRANDMA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Linda softly knocks on the door and then opens it slowly. She pops her head in, trying to be as nonintrusive as possible.

James' Grandma lays awake in her bed. Lying on her side reading a novel. She has a very sweet and loving air to her. Her smile can instantly return the same mood. Her room is very kept together, with not much actually in it.

She has a bedside table with a lamp. She sits up a little, and smiles wide, when Linda walks in. Linda returns the smile as she slowly comes in.

LINDA
Hi.

GRANDMA
Hi sweetie.

Linda sits at the foot of the bed.

LINDA
I hope I'm not bothering you.

GRANDMA
Not at all.

LINDA
How are you feeling? James said you're neck was hurting?

She starts rubbing the sore spot.

GRANDMA
Yeah, it's hard to turn it too much. Just started this morning. I don't think I did anything.

LINDA
Can I get you an ice pack or something?

GRANDMA

No, no, I took some painkillers,
and I suspect a good nights rest
will help. But thank you.

LINDA

Of course.

Linda looks down a little ashamed.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I forgot to get your prescription
filled, so James is gonna get it in
the morning. I'm sorry.

James' Grandma instantly tries to comfort and deflect.

GRANDMA

Oh I'll be okay. It's just one
night. Don't even worry sweetie.

Linda smiles, very happily. They sit in a moment of
comfortable silence.

LINDA

Dinner is going to be ready soon.
I'll come get you.

GRANDMA

Thank you darlin'.

Linda slowly gets up and walks out. Never letting the smile
leave her face. James' Grandma returns to her book.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Linda walks into the Kitchen. She goes to grab her cup and
fill it up with water again. James is tampering with the
sauce now. Adding some pepperflakes and cheese to it, while
also stirring.

JAMES

How is she?

LINDA

Seems better. She wants dinner.

JAMES

That's great.

Linda walks behind James and starts to rub his back a little.
She rests her head against him. James stops working on the
food and tries to rest his head on hers. They both smile.

After a beat, she walks away. She goes to the counter where a small radio is sitting, and turns it on. Immediately some Country music turns on.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Oh my god, please.

Linda gets frantic instantly.

LINDA

Sorry sorry sorry.

She starts to tune through different stations. James gives a quick shudder. She lands on a news station. James is stirring the sauce, and she leans against a different counter than before.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)

Once again, President Trump on Friday called for repealing the Affordable Care Act, and this time he has succeeded. Through much debate the GOP was finally able to get behind Trumps plan once a replacement bill was set forward.

Both James and Linda stare at the radio, like it was delivering news their child has died.

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

It's estimated that 32 million people will lose their healthcare with the repeal, but President Trump seems very confident going forward that-

Linda changes the station to the next one. "Earth Angel" by The Penguins quietly plays.

They both stand in shock. James leans his head against the top of the stove. Linda tries to take a drink of water, but can't even do that. She sets it down and holds her hand over her face, not wanting to show her emotions.

INT. GARAGE - SAME TIME

Connor also looks like he is shaken by the news. His mouth is slightly ajar, and he looks a little shocked.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - GRANDMA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

James' Grandma has stopped reading her book. Her hand is covering only her mouth, and tears are coming out of her eyes. She closes them, only to let more stream down.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

James walks over to the cupboard and gets a cup for himself, and starts to fill it with water. Linda hasn't moved, like she is frozen in her current state. James looks up and starts to stare at Connor, who now blankly stares at nothing, lost in a deep state of depression, smoking another cigarette. James turns his focus and looks at Linda, who still hasn't moved her head.

James hangs his head low. He puts his hand into the water streaming out of the faucet. He just stares at it. He looks lost in deep thought as well now. Linda snuffles, finally cueing that she may be crying.

The lightbulb goes off in James' head. He gets overly excited and speaks, and moves with much haste.

JAMES

I got it!

He walks over to the radio and turns it off. Linda finally looks up and starts to stare at James. Tears are in her eyes, but they haven't fallen. James is just filled to the brim with excitement.

LINDA

What?

JAMES

Come on help me.

James goes and closes the red curtains on the window.

EXT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SAME TIME

We are now their audience. A lot of shuffling around, and lifting and placing of things can be heard. It sounds like there could be twenty people inside.

Once everything is set, the room starts to settle and comes to a calm.

JAMES (O.S.)

Ready?

LINDA (O.S.)

Yes.

JAMES (O.S.)

Cue the music!

With a burst of energy "Dream Lover" by Bobby Darin starts to play. At :07, the curtains open revealing a complete change. The kitchen, and the rest of the interior has morphed into something of a spectacle, or an attempt to. The place looks nice! No more traces of poor, no more gloom and doom, it looks like a place anyone could help to live. There are some attempts to incorporate 50s items, to give a transported feeling, but again, they are poor, so not too much is present.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly James pops in through the door leading from the basement to the kitchen, and Linda runs in from the hallway. They are both done-up in classic teenage 50s style outfits. They instantly go to each other and smile wider than ever before. They go around in circles of each other, inspecting the other head to toe, and loving every second of it.

When it gets to the chorus they bounce, or clap in the rhythm.

They continue to dance through the song. They move quickly in time with it, spinning each other, going into their arms, and out. It has a strong kinetic energy, and they are perfectly in sync. They even lock hands and start to do some sort of mock tango, with an overload of dips.

This continues till 1:04, when they finally can't contain themselves. They run out the side door.

EXT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

They continue dancing as they enter their yard, utilizing the whole space. When they get out there, two dogs come and run up to them. They stop dancing to play with the dogs. James runs around the yard with one, and Linda stays on the ground and starts petting one.

James and his dog eventually go back to Linda, and then they all get in a pile on the ground, laughing and playing. James and Linda look up and standing near them are Connor, his mother Diane, and James' Grandma. They're all smiling and just watching, looking 100% happy and healthy. Linda and James stand up, and the group of three start applauding, after which James and Linda take a bow.

They go up to them and everyone starts hugging and talking, just being a big happy family.

After a few moments, James grabs Linda's hand and nods towards the house. James starts moving and forces Linda to go with him. She smiles and waves goodbye to everyone, who see them off with glee.

They go back to the side door and run inside.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They don't even take time to look at anything. James is just running full speed ahead and Linda is trying to keep up. They're both laughing, filled to the brim with joy.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

At 1:45 they dart into their bedroom. They continue dancing for a few moments in the space of the room, very tight and close. Then James spins Linda onto the bed, and heads straight to the closet.

She's now his audience, laughing and cheering him on. In quick succession he appears in three different outfits, doing his best impersonations of 50s icons; Marlon Brando, James Dean, and John Wayne. Linda loves them all.

James, back in his original 50s outfit, lays on the floor with his head up against the bed, looking dreamily up at Linda. She has a guitar, and plays it, and sings with all the passion in tune with Bobby Darin.

After a few seconds of this, James can't take it, and he sits up, grabbing the guitar and tossing it to the side. He lays Linda down on the bed. He slowly crawls so their faces can meet. Very sweetly, and passionately, they kiss.

As the song winds down more real world sounds can finally be heard. They are out of breath, just staring into each others eyes. Silence now fills the void. James looks around, almost like he's trying to find the music. Linda starts to get a serious look on her face, she just stares at James.

He starts to panic slightly, looking all over the room. He kisses Linda feverishly too, trying to bring the music back. She smiles, and remains calm.

LINDA
Hey, hey, hey.

James stops. He doesn't look at her. He's scared. She sweetly grabs the side of his face and finally they make eye contact.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Hey, it's okay.

He looks as though he doesn't believe her.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Look.

She nods her head towards the door, and James looks. Complete darkness is there, no hallway or anything, an abyss. James hangs his head low.

LINDA (CONT'D)
It'll be alright.

James nods. Slowly they start to get themselves back together. James sits on the bed, letting his feet go to the floor. Linda stands up and fixes her outfit a little. She turns and looks at him, and he looks up at her. She smiles and holds out her hand for him.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Come on.

He takes it, and then follows her out into the hall. Into the abyss.

SOMEWHERE IN TIME - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly in the all consuming darkness, an overhead light is switched on. A slight fog whisks through the room, making everything hazy. Other than the light hitting one spot in the middle of a room, nothing else can be seen.

From opposite sides James and Linda enter into the center of the circle. They stare into each others eyes. Linda initiates the embrace into each others arms, getting into a slow dancing position.

"I Love How You Love Me" by The Paris Sisters starts to play.

They start to spin in a circle, at a very slow and steady pace. They never release their contact with one another. James rests his head on top of Linda, and they just embrace the moment.

Everything is scary, everything. Life is full of so many fears, and they both feel the reality maybe a little too strong. This is their moment to try and shed it all.

They try to just remember the good, the love, and that they have each other. In this moment nothing else matters.

They feel, and do whatever they have to. They let out tears in full blown sobs, and also in single streaks. They laugh both hysterically, and subtly. They smile, but also let sadness consume their expressions when needed. They rub each others backs. They kiss softly. Never once letting passion dip, even slightly. Nothing exists, except for right now.

They take their time, trying to absorb every single second of the song, and every single second of their lives.

When the song ends. They stand still and stare at each other. The spotlight fades out.

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Suddenly, the lights fade up, and everything is normal. James and Linda stand, still embracing in the middle of the room. It's 2017 again, back to their normal clothes, and the noodles still boiling.

They take a few moments to compose themselves. They separate, to only hold hands, and then return to the kitchen.

KITCHEN

They walk in and return to their original positions, James at the noodles, Linda leaning on the counter. They're both smiling ear to ear. James stop what he's doing to look at Linda.

JAMES

I love you.

She stares deep into his soul.

LINDA

I love you too.

Their stare gains intensity. Finally James turns back to the task at hand. Linda lets her thoughts drift into a happy dream. They both start humming.

"Angel Baby" by Rosie & The Originals starts playing.

INT. GARAGE - SAME TIME

Connor is standing there, looking through the window. He is crying. Tears have been rolling down his face.

But he looks happier then ever before. He wipes his face and laughs a little, which only causes a few more tears to stream.

He snuffles, coughs, and laughs again. He throws his cigarette on the ground, and stomps it out.

Smiling ear to ear, he goes into the garage and grabs a bike. He wheels it out. He gets on and starts pedaling. He is touched. He is moved. He understands. He is ready. He goes and rides down the street, to who knows where.

At :23, when Rosie starts singing-

CUT TO BLACK: