

No Place Like Home

Written by

Mary Alexandra Stiefvater

31st Republic Productions  
PO Box 91510  
Los Angeles, CA 90009  
Tel. 310-591-7927  
Info@31stRepublicProductions.com

FADE IN.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

**MR. BROWN** and **TEDDY** are having a delicate discussion.

MR. BROWN  
You look like you want to ask something.

Teddy looks down.

MR. BROWN (CONT'D)  
It's okay. Nothing is off limits.

TEDDY  
Will we...um...

Teddy clears his throat.

TEDDY (CONT'D)  
Will we be able to...

MR. BROWN  
Yes. I get asked that all the time. There's no need to be embarrassed. Everything will be as it was. With just a few limitations that should be rectified with time.

TEDDY  
When will it be ready?

MR. BROWN  
We'll have it all completed for you when you return from your trip. All we need are the entry codes. Which of course you can change after we have concluded our installation.

Mr. Brown gets up to shake Teddy's hand and escort him out.

TEDDY  
What can I say? Thank you.

MR. BROWN  
Delighted to assist.

Teddy exits and Mr. Brown returns to his desk. Pressing the intercom he calls the **RECEPTIONIST**.

RECEPTIONIST (V.O.)  
Ms. Whitesell is here.

MR. BROWN  
Send her in.

**MS. WHITESELL** enters timidly.

MR. BROWN (CONT'D)  
Ms. Whitesell.

MS. WHITESELL  
Call me Jennifer.

INT. TEDDY'S HOME - DAY

Teddy unlocks the door and goes to type in the entry code but it's disabled.

RIANNE  
Welcome home.

**RIANNE** is standing in a nightdress.

Teddy looks like he is going to cry. He rushes to her and hugs her.

RIANNE (CONT'D)  
Whoa.

TEDDY  
I love you. I love you so much.

Teddy is crying uncontrollably.

RIANNE  
It's okay. I love you too.

They sink to the floor. Rianne holding Teddy.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOME - NIGHT

She is in the kitchen putting away groceries. **KATE** enters.

KATE  
What are you doing at this hour?

JENNIFER  
Just getting everything ready.

KATE

This is ludicrous. He's not coming back.

Undeterred Jennifer puts the peanut butter in the cupboard.

JENNIFER

I bought all his favorite brands but they were out of sour gummy worms. Do you think he'll mind?

KATE

Have you paid the mortgage this month?

JENNIFER

You have to trust me.

KATE

We have to live.

JENNIFER

It will be fine. It will all be fine you'll see.

KATE

No it won't. You have squandered all our savings for this stupid scheme.

JENNIFER

Stop.

KATE

Everything we've ever worked for and built together, gone. In an instant because you were so selfish you couldn't let him...

JENNIFER

What? What? Go. He should be here. With me. And if you can't live with it maybe you need to leave.

Kate is stunned.

KATE

Well I guess that answers that.

She picks up her keys, wallet and phone.

KATE (CONT'D)  
I'll arrange to come get my things  
later.

She takes off her wedding band and drops it on the counter.

Kate leaves.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Teddy and Rianne are making love. Teddy stops.

TEDDY  
This feels so real.

RIANNE  
For me too.

He kisses her, rubbing his fingers over her cheek.

TEDDY  
Everything. It's like you never  
left.

RIANNE  
This time I won't leave. I won't  
leave ever again.

TEDDY  
Promise?

RIANNE  
Scout's honor.

Rianne rolls on top of Teddy and continues.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOME - DAY

The doorbell rings. Jennifer answers the door  
enthusiastically. **ROGER** stands outside with **3 PEOPLE**.

ROGER  
Ms. Whitesell? We are here for the  
installation.

JENNIFER  
Yes of course.

ROGER  
Just sign here.

Three people enter in jeans, hoodies and designer sneakers. They look like they are teenagers.

Jennifer stands back in the doorway to let them work.

ROGER (CONT'D)

It's better that you don't stay while we work. We'll be done by five.

JENNIFER

Of course.

Jennifer goes to grab her purse off the counter. It knocks Kate's wedding band on the floor under the table. She doesn't notice. Jennifer leaves.

INT. COFFEEHOUSE - DAY

In a corner Kate is reading something on her computer. A **MAN** walks up to her and kisses her on the cheek.

RAUL

Hey. You okay?

KATE

Take a look at this.

She turns the screen around to an article.

***"TECH BILLIONAIRE'S VR STARTUP STOCK GOES THROUGH THE ROOF"***

INT. TEDDY'S HOME

He is getting dressed for work and Rianne brings him some coffee.

TEDDY

What are you going to do today?

He types his code into the phone to unlock it. Rianne watches him lovingly.

RIANNE

I thought I might redecorate. New life. New start. New us.

Teddy makes a stock trade from his phone.

TEDDY

What if I stay home and we do it together. Decorate that is.

RIANNE

What about the market?

TEDDY

I can execute the trades from here  
and have my secure calls  
transferred. We can make dinner  
together. I just don't want to  
leave you ever.

Rianne and Teddy kiss.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Mr. Brown is addressing a table full of suits.

MR. BROWN

As you can see third quarter  
revenue is three times what we  
projected and at this rate we  
should be valued at 30 billion by  
December. Any questions?

The **SHAREHOLDERS** shrug. One **MAN** speaks up.

MAN

This growth cannot go on like this  
indefinitely. I'm not seeing any  
realistic projections for a decline  
in revenue.

MR. BROWN

That's because there will be none.

MAN

Excuse me? Are we to believe this  
growth can go on indefinitely.

MR. BROWN

Not can. Will.

MAN

Impossible.

MR. BROWN

Ladies and gentlemen. If you would  
kindly follow me.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOME

Jennifer walks in and **A LITTLE BOY** rushes to her.

DOMINIC  
Mommy! Mommy!

Jennifer drops her bag and rushes to him.

JENNIFER  
Dominic! Oh Dominic!

DOMINIC  
Mommy don't cry. I'm home.

JENNIFER  
Yes! Yes!

INT. RAUL'S CAR.

Kate and Raul are having a conversation.

KATE  
She just turned over our life savings to them. All for this ridiculous illusion.

RAUL  
What do you want to do?

KATE  
What can I do?

RAUL  
Is she worth fighting for?

Kate looks at him.

INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dominic is eating sour gummy worms while Jennifer reads him a bedtime story.

JENNIFER  
And they lived happily ever after.  
The End.

DOMINIC  
Again.

JENNIFER  
It's time for bed.

DOMINIC  
No.



JENNIFER  
Yes. We have a full day tomorrow.

DOMINIC  
Can we go to the aquarium?

Jennifer looks distressed.

JENNIFER  
No. We are going to build a fort through two rooms and then we are having a belated birthday party!

DOMINIC  
I wanna go to the aquarium.

JENNIFER  
We can't...because we have a birthday party planned for you!

DOMINIC  
The next day then?

JENNIFER  
We'll see.

Jennifer's phone rings. It's Kate. She silences it.

DOMINIC  
Is Kate coming? To my party?

Jennifer looks at her wedding band. Unlocking the phone she goes to the contacts and blocks Kate's number.

JENNIFER  
Let's tuck you in.

DOMINIC  
Like a bug in a rug.

JENNIFER  
So tight you can't wiggle out.

DOMINIC  
I love you mom.

JENNIFER  
I love you so much my sweet boy.

She turns the lights out as she leaves then turns to watch him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TEDDY'S HOME - DAY

Teddy walks in.

RIANNE  
Do you like the blue or the black?

TEDDY  
The blue?

RIANNE  
That's what I was thinking.

TEDDY  
I just booked us a second honeymoon  
in Buenos Aires.

RIANNE  
Honey.

Teddy thinks about it for a moment then realizes his mistake.

TEDDY  
I forgot.

RIANNE  
It's okay. We can have a second  
honeymoon here. A little stay-  
cation.

TEDDY  
Whatever you want.

RIANNE  
I want you. Now go turn the stove  
off or that pot roast is going to  
be well, well done.

Teddy goes to the kitchen.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Mr. Brown is leading the group from the conference room down  
a long hall with a series of doors.

INT. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Kate enters.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Kate has been waiting a long time. Finally an ASSISTANT approaches her.

ASSISTANT

I'm sorry but Mrs. Caskill will be unable to see you today.

KATE

I have filed a complaint. I have made appointment after appointment and every time, I am turned away. I followed protocol now I'm just done.

Kate storms into the interior office.

ASSISTANT

You can't go there.

KATE

There's no one in here.

ASSISTANT

Like I was saying. Mrs. Caskill had some important business to attend to last minute. If you like I can make you a new appointment.

Kate leaves furious.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

**MRS. CASKILL** is staring through a window into a room.

MR. BROWN

Need I say more?

MRS. CASKILL

And how does this assure continued profits?

Mr. Brown opens the door and the group enters.

INT. ROOM - DAY

Large reclining modular seats are lined up in a room. A person is seated in each seat and there are easily **100 PEOPLE** in each room. There are catheter bag and feeding tubes hooked to eat chair and **NURSES** monitoring each person with a complex series of computers.

The group looks in awe at the sight.

Each person is wearing an oculus rift.

MR. BROWN

They are living in VR. Virtual reality. And we control their reality.

MAN

So how does this continue profits?

MR. BROWN

Each one, as they live their daily life, types in a password or makes a trade or transfers funds. In VR we see everything they do. We control their money once they are in the chair. We have full access to everything about them.

A chair starts beeping then flatlines. The **NURSE** unhooks the monitor and takes the pulse.

NURSE

4:31pm time of death.

Mrs. Caskill watches unfazed.

MR. BROWN

Everyone dies. And grief is a terrible thing. What we offer is a way for them to feel like we have reversed it. For a time.

Another set of computers are along the back wall.

MAN

What are those for.

MR. BROWN

This is how we assure profits. This computers track all their passwords, assets, stocks and real estate. As part of the fine print in their contracts with us, we receive everything upon their passing.

A computer screen is liquidating stocks and selling off assets as they watch.

MRS. CASKILL

And people agree to this?

MR. BROWN

Like I said grief is a terrible thing and most people rarely stop in life to read the fine print. They just click to get their instant app or free software or too good to be true deal, signing away their rights in a keystroke. They willingly turn over their lives. We are merely there to make their remaining time on earth comfortable and collect the rainwater after the storm so to speak.

One **PERSON** seated in the chair starts shaking and having a seizure. The person's wrist slams repeatedly into a needle placed near their wrist. The nurse walks over to him. The person flatlines.

MRS. CASKILL

What was that?

MR. BROWN

To make the person feel like the VR is in fact real life, we create the illusion of installing a system in their home and then we give them a rule that the person we restore to them in VR can only exist within this home. If the restored person leaves the house, both are immediately terminated. That person went outside with their restored person.

MRS. CASKILL

How is that legal?

MR. BROWN

It's perfectly legal. This is a right-to-die country and they sign that clause in the contract. They even willingly have a cyanide capsule placed under their skin near their wrist. Like I said in the presentation, every dies. We just provide these people with the comfort of the person they loved the most before they do.

The group looks on stoically.

MR. BROWN (CONT'D)

Shall we move on to the next room?

The group turns to exit and Mrs. Caskill glances at two people in the chairs. Teddy is seated next to Jennifer.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The group continues down an endless hallway with multiple doors on either side leading to rooms full of people.

INT. BEDROOM BALCONY - NIGHT

Teddy is standing on the balcony feeling the breeze. Rianne walks over to meet him.

TEDDY

Have I told you how happy you make  
me?

He pulls her outside, onto the balcony to kiss her.

INT. FOYER - JENNIFER'S HOME - DAY

Jennifer is leaving. She opens the door and stands on the front porch.

JENNIFER

I'm going to the store honey.

DOMINIC

I'm going out to play.

Dominic runs outside before she can stop him.

JENNIFER

No!!!!!!

FADE TO BLACK.

END.