

Runaway Sadie

By

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1. EXT. GRAVEYARD-DAY

We see a funeral director giving a speech to a small congregation of teary-eyed mourners sitting in front of a grave. The funeral director's speech is muffled in the background as we zoom in on SADIE, a well-put-together 19 year old girl with wavy brown hair dressed in all black, not crying. Just a numb look on her face. The funeral director's voice comes back into the foreground of the sound.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Thank you all for coming. You may now pay your respects individually if you would like.

As everyone begins to collect themselves and go up to the grave or walk away, we watch Sadie stare at the grave as she picks up her bag and walks away.

2. INT SADIE'S CAR-DAY

As she drives in silence, we see the billboards/ads she's passing. One is for a life insurance company and the majority of the billboard is taken up by the text "Don't wait until it's too late!" Another is for a furniture sale that says "Time is running out!"

At a stop light, we see Sadie's eyes find the license plate of the car in front of her, which is a grand canyon-themed plate that says "YOLO".

3. EXT. SADIE'S HOUSE-DAY

Sadie pulls into the driveway, and sits in her car for a moment, taking a breath. Then, she gets out of the car and walks up the walkway and through the front door of the house.

4. INT. SADIE'S HOUSE-DAY

The house is small but homey. The front door opens right into a big room which has been purposed as the kitchen/dining room on one side and the living room on the other. On the living room side, we see Sadie's mother, DEB, 55, curly brown hair, laugh lines, sitting on the couch waiting for her. She gets up when Sadie walks in.

DEB

Hey, how was it?

SADIE

Shitty.

DEB

Hey!

Sadie walks into the kitchen and begins taking out the ingredients to make a ham sandwich. She handles every ingredient roughly. Deb has gotten up from the couch and is standing at the table, behind a chair, watching her. Sadie's back is to her mother the whole time.

DEB

You wanna talk about it?

SADIE

No.

Sadie begins to assemble her sandwich at the kitchen counter. She drops the butter knife she was using to spread some mustard and yells out in more anger than is necessary for such an accident.

SADIE

Damnit!

She picks up the knife it was that fell and throws it on the counter. Her anger turns to sadness and she begins to cry.

DEB

Sadie...

Sadie sits at the table. Deb sits across from her. Deb stares at Sadie, Sadie stares at the wall.

SADIE

Am I wasting my time?

DEB

What?

SADIE

My time. Like, on Earth, am I wasting it?

DEB

Sadie, you're 19.

SADIE

People die at 19. People die before 19.

DEB

They also die long after 19.

SADIE

Well, what if I'm not one of those people?

DEB

What are you talking about?

SADIE

Why am I going to school?...Why am I wasting money on community college?

DEB

Sadie, I thought you wanted a degree.

SADIE

I did...

DEB

Now you don't?

SADIE

Not right now...

DEB

...Alright...well, it doesn't have to be right now. That's the great thing about higher education. There is no timeline.

A moment.

DEB (CONT)

So, what do you want to do then?...You want a job?

SADIE

I want to do something fun.

DEB

Well, I'm sure there are lots of jobs that'll be fun and-

SADIE

No, I don't want a job, I just want...Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon?

DEB

Sadie, please, I've never even left Colorado. Your father and I always talked about going down there, but-

SADIE
Let's go then.

DEB
...What?

SADIE
You and me, let's go to the Grand Canyon.

DEB
Why the sudden fascination with the Grand Canyon?

SADIE
I don't know, I just...want to go somewhere that feels important.

DEB
...Alright, well, there's, what, three weeks left until summer? We can try to pull something together by then if I-

SADIE
No, forget about school. Forget about work, let's just go now.

Sadie pulls out her phone and looks up directions to the Grand Canyon from Denver, CO.

DEB
Now? I can't, I have to make lesson plans and-

SADIE
It's only a 10 hour drive!

DEB
Only?

SADIE
We'll split it! It'll be barely a day, roundtrip, we don't even need to pack anything!

DEB
Sadie, I don't know, I was up all night thinking about my students and-

SADIE
Don't worry about your students,

they'll be fine without you. Dad never took you, and probably never will, so I'll do it.

DEB
Don't talk bad about your father-

SADIE
Oh my GOD-

DEB
Sadie, please!

SADIE
He left us!

DEB
He didn't leave us! He just wasn't...ready to start a family...that's not what this is about, you can't just pick up and leave like this-

SADIE
Mom! That kind of thinking is exactly why you've never left Colorado! Didn't you ever want to see the world?

DEB
Of course I wanted to see the world, Sadie! I dreamed of backpacking through Europe and swimming in the Mediterranean, but life gets in the way.

SADIE
Like getting pregnant when you're 17?

DEB
Hey...

SADIE
I'm the reason your life was ruined, I'm the reason Dad left, well, let me try to fix it now-

DEB
Sadie, my life was never ruined, especially not by you. You're the best thing-

SADIE

"The best thing that ever happened to you," yeah, I've heard it before.

DEB

You know your father regrets leaving every day of his life. And he's really trying to be more involved now-

SADIE

Yeah, real convenient timing...

Deb looks disapprovingly at Sadie's snarky remark.

SADIE (CONT)

Well! Now I'm old to enough to do all the stuff he never did with you! We can make up for all that lost time starting now!

DEB

Sadie,-

SADIE

Mom, if we don't go right now, we never will. And then I'll just be stuck in Denver, like you, until the day I die...

A moment. Death is a touchy subject for Sadie at the moment. Deb looks into Sadie's eyes and sees how much this really means to her.

DEB

Fine-

SADIE

Yes!

Sadie jumps up and starts grabbing random but necessary items: car keys, a jacket, a blanket, etc.

DEB

But this is YOUR trip, YOU'RE driving.

Sadie takes a moment to look at her mother, then goes over and kisses her on the cheek.

SADIE

Of course, Momma.

Deb begins to get up.

SADIE
And we WILL be getting Cane's.

DEB
Only the best!

5. INT. SADIE'S CAR-DAY

Car montage. Clips of Sadie and Deb laughing, singing along to music, at the Cane's drive through, Sadie eating Cane's as she drives, and Deb sleeping. Sadie is driving the whole way. In between montage clips, we keep cutting back to the answering machine at Sadie's house as it keeps receiving phone calls. We hear some of the voicemails being left.

PRINCIPAL JOHNS (ON PHONE)
Hey, Sadie, this is Principal Johns over at Rutgers Elementary. I am so sorry for your loss, we all are.

MRS. VARLEY (ON PHONE)
Hi this is Mrs. Varley from down the street, calling for Sadie. We heard about what happened and our door is always open for you, sweetheart.

Eventually, the car stops. Sadie looks out and takes a breath. She then wakes Deb.

SADIE
Mom...

She gently shakes Deb's shoulder.

SADIE (CONT)
Mom, we're here.

Deb wakes up and stretches a little.

DEB
Already?

SADIE
Yeah, time really flies when you spend the whole drive sleeping, doesn't it?

They start to get out of the car.

DEB
(Playfully, almost muttering to
herself)
Not the WHOLE drive.

6. EXT. GRAND CANYON OVERLOOK-SUNSET

They've arrive in time to see a beautiful sunset.

They walk to the edge of the overlook.

A moment as they watch the sunset.

DEB
So, why the Grand Canyon again?

SADIE
I don't know, it...it feels like the
closest I could get to the edge of the
earth. And after this morning...

Deb puts her arm around Sadie.

DEB
I know. I'm sorry.

SADIE
It's not your fault. But this feels
like a good place to...say
goodbye?...I guess.

They both watch the sunset with tears in their eyes.

SADIE
I love you.

DEB
I know you do. I love you too.

The sun completely sets.

Sadie takes a deep breath.

SADIE
Alright! Time to head back.

DEB
Sadie...

SADIE

Yep! Gotta get back in time to do some homework I guess! You were right, I do want that degree, and I'll have time after school to do whatever I want-

DEB

Sadie!

SADIE

Don't worry, I'll drive the whole way, I don't mind.

A heavy silence sits between them.

Deb has tears in her eyes.

DEB

I think...this is where you leave me.

Silence.

SADIE

I don't-...

Deb walks to Sadie.

DEB

Sadie. My baby. Thank you so much for bringing me here. But you know I can't go back with you. You said it yourself...this is where you say goodbye.

Sadie is silent.

DEB (CONT)

So...you go. And you get that degree. And then you go out and you see the whole entire world, do you hear me?

Sadie is silent. Deb takes Sadie's head in her hands and kisses her on the forehead.

DEB (CONT)

I love you. More than anything. Make me proud, okay?

Sadie finally breaks down and gives her mother a desperate hug. Deb hugs back with the same vigor.

SADIE

I love you, Momma.

DEB

I know.

They stay in this hug for a moment longer. When they part, Deb stands in the same spot and watches Sadie get in her car and start to drive away. Before her car is fully out of view, Deb turns and looks out over the canyon again. Sadie takes one last look in one of her mirrors and sees her mother seeing the wide open view.

7. INT. SADIE'S CAR-NIGHT

A car montage similar to and yet entirely different from before. Again, clips of the answering machine with voicemails being left are intertwined with clips of Sadie.

First clip we see is Sadie driving while numbly looking forward. We hear the answering machine beep before cutting to a clip of the answering machine.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)

Heya Sades, it's Dad...listen I-I hope you're holding up alright...Gimme a call okay?

Next, Sadie is starting to tear up. Answering machine.

AUNT CAROL (ON PHONE)

Hi, Sadie, it's Aunt Carol, listen I know it's late but I didn't really get to talk to you after the funeral today, just let me know if you're alright.

Sadie is now pulling over to the side of the highway to break down screaming and crying; not a temper tantrum, but not a pitiful cry either. It's everything she's been trying to not let herself feel for quite some time. We stay watching Sadie but again hear the beep of the answering machine.

MARGARET (ON PHONE)

Sadie, I was so sorry to hear about your mom passing...

Now a hollowing echo of voicemail voices overlapping, saying

VOICE 1

Your mom was so great.

VOICE 2
Deb always brought the biggest smile.

VOICE 3
I worked with her at the school.

VOICE 1
She was so so loved.

VOICE 3
I'll be here if you ever want to
collect her things from her desk.

VOICE 1
Your mother will be so missed.

VOICE 3
I'm taking over her class, not sure
what to tell her students.

At the same time, we see clips from the earlier funeral. The
shot of Sadie's numb expression, the funeral director saying

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
She leaves behind a daughter, Sadie.

We see the gravestone that says "Deborah Adams".

The voicemail echos die down as we hear one last voicemail.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
Sadie, hey, it's Dad again...(sniffles
and then clears throat)...listen I
know we don't talk a lot but...I loved
her too okay? Please call me back.

8. EXT. GRAVEYARD-SUNRISE

Sadie's car pulls up to the graveyard. She gets out and walks
to her mother's stone. She feels her mother's name with her
hand. She takes a breath. Then, Sadie sits next to her
mother's gravestone and watches the sun with her one last
time.

9. EXT. SADIE'S HOUSE-DAY

Sadie's car pulls into the driveway of her home. Similar to
before, she waits and takes a breath in the car. Acceptance.
She gets out of the car and walks into the house.

As she is walking, we hear the phone ringing. Sadie can hear

it faintly from the outside, but she doesn't rush to answer.

10. INT. SADIE'S HOUSE-DAY

As she enters the house, we hear Deb and Sadie's voicemail greeting.

DEB (ON PHONE)
Hey, this is Deb, please leave-

YOUNG SADIE (ON PHONE)
And Sadie!

DEB (ON PHONE)
That's right, and Sadie. Please leave
us a message and we'll get right back
to ya!

Sadie smiles.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
Sadie...I'm sorry to call ya so many
times I just...(laughs softly) think I
just wanna hear that message every
time...anyway...I hope you're-

By now, Sadie has made her way to the phone and has answered it.

SADIE
Dad, hey.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
...Sadie! Hey! Where...Where ya been?
How're you doin?

SADIE
I'm good...I just...took a trip.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
Yeah?

SADIE
Yeah...

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
Where to?

SADIE
Grand Canyon.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
Oh, wow...Always wanted to take your
mother there...

Sadie smiles.

SADIE
Yeah...me too.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
So, how're you holdin' up?

SADIE
Better now.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
Yeah, time heals all wounds or
something like that...I tell ya no
matter how much warning you get, these
things never get easier.

Sadie just listens.

SADIE'S FATHER (CONT)
But you know, she lived a full life,
even if it was a little
short...Cancer's a bitch, I tell ya.

Sadie laughs softly.

SADIE
...I miss her, Dad.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
I know you do, I do too...Tell me more
about this trip though.

Sadie laughs.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
You been plannin' this, or-

SADIE
No, no, I just, I just really needed a
change of scenery.

SADIE'S FATHER (ON PHONE)
Change of scenery, yeah. I tell ya,
when your mom and I were younger, we'd
drive off for a change of scenery all
the time-

Begin to fade out and play end credit music, something happy!

SADIE'S FATHER (CONT)

Never anywhere too far, had to have
her home by midnight, but we'd go to
the mountains and watch the sunsets
and...

Fade to black.