

NOTES TO SALMA

Written by
Michael Noonan

5 December 2018

INT. BEDROOM -- DAY

A WOMAN (70s) wakes, eyes wide, a touch disoriented.

The bed's empty next to her. Stuck to the unused pillow --

-- a post-it note. Neat handwriting reads: "PUT TEETH IN".

She lifts her head to read it, puzzled. Her eyes drift past it to a glass on the bedside table: false teeth float in water.

She gets out of bed, plucks them out.

The water left behind settles, revealing --

-- another post-it note underneath. It sharpens through the liquid: "PEE".

She adjusts her false teeth, hurries off.

INT. BATHROOM -- DAY

The Woman flushes, closes the toilet lid. On top, a post-it: "GO DOWNSTAIRS". She straightens, looks off.

INT. STAIRCASE -- DAY

The Woman takes gentle steps downwards... we notice an ARROW post-it on the banister.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

There's a post-it on the fridge door: "EAT WHAT'S INSIDE". She opens it to reveal --

-- square-shaped green jelly on a white plate. There's nothing else in the fridge.

INT. KITCHEN -- LATER

She takes the last bite of the green jelly. Underneath, stuck to the plate: "TAKE PILLS".

NEAR THE SINK

two pills arranged on a saucer, next to a glass of water.

She looks out the window, her eyeline sharpening on --

-- a post-it stuck to the window.

"FEED MIMI".

She turns, abrupt, almost like she feels the fleeting movement of an animal behind her... *but nothing's there.*

She sees TWO BOWLS by the door...

INT. KITCHEN -- LATER

She fills the first of the bowls with a cup of CAT FOOD, covering a post-it at the bottom: "ONE CUP ONLY".

A post-it in the second bowl, distorted through water, reads: "SHE'S TOO FAT".

The Woman straightens, looks about. No cat. She seems disappointed.

INT. LIVING AREA -- DAY

The TV plays indistinct home video footage. Laughter. A post-it above a DVD player reads: "PRESS PLAY".

The Woman watches, pleased. Nostalgic.

INT. HALLWAY -- DAY

The Woman emerges from the bathroom: a post-it note on the wall conveniently meets her eyeline: "GO BACK TO BED".

She heads towards her bedroom, closes the door. A beat, then --

A DOOR OPENS

The eyes of a MAN (70s) peer out. He emerges, checks the coast is clear...

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

He sees the remnants of The Woman's presence: empty plate, pills gone, cat bowl filled.

He is relieved.

He gets to work:

-- cuts a perfect square from a pre-prepared tray of jelly....

-- places two pills on a saucer on the bench...

-- empties the cat food back into the packet...

-- opens a drawer to reveal a stack of fresh post-it notes.

AT THE TABLE

he writes on the post-it notes: "PUT TEETH IN", "PEE".

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The Woman snores. The Man gently places a post-it on the pillow next to her, another under the glass of water.

He stands over her, studies her face... then lowers a set of pincers into her open mouth...

ON THE GLASS

as the false teeth plop into it.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

The Man closes the door to his room. Everything is still.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

The Woman opens the fridge: square-shaped jelly.

She eats the jelly, sees the post-it underneath.

She swallow the pills, sees the post-it on the window: "FEED MIMI".

Her eyes drift to the sill: a framed photo:

It's her and The Man, arms around each other. Happier times. She turns it over, sees a post-it stuck to the back:

"YOU ARE LOVED".

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

The Man sits at the table, writes notes. His hand twitches, writing "PRESS PLAK".

He starts over, steadies his writing hand with the other.

INT. BEDROOM -- DAY

The Woman wakes, sees the post-it on the pillow. She straightens, bothered. Notes the messy writing.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

The Man's twitch has worsened. He struggles.

INT. BATHROOM -- DAY

The Woman peels the post-it from the toilet lid: "GOOOO DWNSTRSS". She seems puzzled.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

The Man can barely write. It's a mess of letters. He drops his pen, exhausted. Desperate. He tries again.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

The Woman stands in front of the fridge.

The post-it on the door is illegible: a mess of jagged lines. She looks off, bothered.

INT. HALLWAY/ROOM -- DAY

The Woman searches through a messy cupboard. Items spill out onto the floor. She's purposeful, deliberate.

She finds what she's looking for.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

The Man emerges from his room.

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The Man stands over The Woman, almost like he wants to wake her and say something. But he doesn't. He leaves.

The Woman opens her eyes: *she knew he was there.*

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

The Man stops in the doorway, bothered by something he sees...

ON THE TABLE

an object, obscured.

He approaches, sits in front of it. It's a LABEL-MAKER.

There's a post-it stuck to its keyboard. It reads:

"USE THIS".

He looks about, bothered, like he thinks he's being watched. He returns to the label-maker.

INT. BEDROOM -- DAY

The Woman wakes. She turns to the empty pillow to see --

-- a post-it note in its usual place. Printed letters from a label-maker are stuck to it:

"PUT TEETH IN".

She smiles, quietly delighted.

CUT TO:

BLACK.