

THE HANDS

By
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1	<p>INT. HOSPICE ROOM - PRESENT</p> <p>LACIE (32) sits at bedside of DADDY(55). He is hooked up to machines, fading.</p> <p>She studies him and</p> <p>HIS HANDS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOICEOVER My father's hands.</p>	1	* * * * * *
2	<p>INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - 1975</p> <p>HANDS wring in anticipation.</p> <p>DADDY (22) sits, awaiting arrival of new child.</p> <p>NURSE wheels BABY LACIE into room.</p> <p>Nurse takes Baby Lacie from bassinet, and places her into</p> <p>WAITING HANDS of Daddy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOICEOVER From the first moment they held me.</p> <p>Massively powerful mahogany hands of a man lovingly cradle a baby girl. He brings her to his chest,</p>	2	* * * * * * * *
3	<p>EXT. FAMILY PARCEL/TREES AND SKY FOR MILES</p> <p>then lifts her skyward.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOICEOVER My father's hands embodied all that a man was capable of being to his little girl child.</p>	3	* * *
4	<p>INT. FAMILY HOME - INSERTS</p> <p>Father's hands tie his little girl's shoes.</p>	4	*
5	<p>EXT. SIDEWALK - INSERT</p> <p>Father's hands hold steady a first 2-wheeler bike.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DADDY Keep ur head up. Steady. Steady now.</p>	5	* * *

LACIE
I am.

DADDY
OK. You ready?

LACIE
I think so.

Father lets go of the 2-wheeler.

LACIE (CONT'D)
I'm doing it Daddy! Watch me!

DADDY
I'm watching, Sweetie.

It goes on without his help.

DADDY (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Great job.

VOICEOVER
And the hands know they will one
day very soon feel obsolete.
Not all hands cope well with this
dawning.

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6	INT. MIDWESTERN SUBURBAN HOME/LACIE'S BEDROOM - DAY (1984)	6	<p>Nine-year-old LACIE plays with her dolls. Peaceful. Engaged.</p> <p>Startles at SOUND of FRONT DOOR.</p> <p>Fear. Knowing.</p>	* * *
7	INT. LIVING ROOM	7	<p>Daddy enters front door.</p>	*
7A	INT. LIVING ROOM - HALLWAY	7A	<p>Mommy comes into room, sees him, goes back without words.</p> <p>Irritated, Daddy's focus shifts to pile of board games and pieces strewn about the floor.</p> <p>He turns abruptly and heads upstairs.</p> <p>OMITTED</p>	* * * * *
8	INT. LACIE'S BEDROOM	8	<p style="text-align: center;">LACIE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I'll be good Daddy No!</p> <p>His large hands wind up to strike Lacie.</p> <p>Lacie scrambles across the floor backwards, trying to escape the hands.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DADDY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I've told you a thousand times.</p>	* * * * * *
8A	INT. BOTTOM OF STAIRS	8A	<p>Mommy stands frozen, listening to Lacie's screams as Daddy hits her.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DADDY (O.S.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You will learn to respect what I've given you!</p>	* * * * *

8B	INT. LACIE'S BEDROOM	8B	*
	Daddy follows Lacie's movements. Determined.		*
	HANDS fly up again. And again.		*
9	INT. HOSPICE ROOM - NOW	9	*
	Large hand with ashen skin comes down softly on hospital sheets as nurse finishes taking vitals.		*
	GROWN-UP LACIE studies the hands for possible life.		*
10	OMITTED	10	*

11	INT. HOSPICE ROOM	11	*
	VOICEOVER		*
	As long as life courses through each and every digit, we are not done. My life not yet quite my own.		*
	NURSE		
	Is there anyone else we should call?		
	LACIE		*
	(sotto)		*
	I don't know.		*
	DOCTOR		
	All of what we've talked about is occurring, albeit a little more quickly than we'd expected.		
	Lacie's ears do not hear what the doctor continues to say. She only sees Daddy's hands.		*
			*
12	EXT. BAR - EVENING - 1984	12	
	VOICEOVER		
	My mother had long grown tired of hunting down the hands.		
	Lacie gets out of the backseat of their car.		*

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

13 INT. BAR - EVENING - 1984 13

Lacie enters, fish out of water. Sees *

Daddy at the bar, next to a laughing WOMAN with long blond hair. *

His hands pull the woman closer, very at home on her body. *

OMITTED *

Woman leans to whisper in his ear. *

Sees Lacie. *

Daddy turns, sees Lacie. *

He pulls his hands back down to his sides. *

Their eyes lock.

Daddy goes to Lacie. Hand on her shoulder and heads towards the door. *

DADDY VOICEOVER *

(mouthing the words) How's my favorite girl? *

How's my favorite girl? *

He leans down to talk to her, patting her hand with his, *

VOICEOVER *

That was the hands' way of asking *

me, "How good of a daughter will *

you be...this time?" *

then sends her back on her way, *

while he returns to the Woman. *

VOICEOVER (CONT'D) *

The blonds never seemed to care *

that the hands always eventually *

went home to the brown-haired wife. *

Woman can't take her eyes off of Lacie, as Daddy's hands find their way back to Woman's body. *

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

The hands were too well-known, and
well-regarded.

Lacie looks back one last time at Woman.

13A INT. FAMILY HOME - NEXT DAY

13A

Mommy and Lacie stand at doorway, surveying what they are
leaving. Suitcases at their feet.

Mommy offers Lacie her hand. She takes it.

14 INT. HOSPICE ROOM - NOW

14

DOCTOR

Would you like a moment before we
turn off his support?

Veiny hands, now connected to a whole man. Daddy is now frail, silent.

GROWNUP LACIE

No.

Takes a breath.

GROWNUP LACIE (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Go ahead.

The doctor and the nurse **move to** turn off the equipment. A FLATLINE SOUNDS.

DOCTOR

Time of death, 17:32.

The hands lay limp.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Take as long as you need to.

Nurse touches Lacie's arm.

Lacie watches **the hands** for a moment, unbelieving.

Never looking Daddy in the face.

She gets up, gathers her things.

Looks again at the hands.

She moves to touch the hands.

Her hand hovers just above his hand.

Her fingertips graze his hand as she pulls away.

Finally, she **turns and** leaves the room.

VOICEOVER

Joy and sadness are not exclusive of one another. One can be happy to be free of **the imprisonment**, but miss the familiarity of **the captor**.

Lacie walks down the hospital corridor. Her shoulders seem a bit taller and straighter without the weight of the hands.

THE END