

**TIME AND TIDE**

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A stately Seth Thomas grandfather clock ticks rhythmically.

HARRIET SEALY (72) 5-4, a bit chunky, distinguished with gray hair and slight apple cheeks. Her brown eyes are soft and twinkle. She sits, posture straight, on the edge of a large, antique chair.

She clutches her shiny, black purse tightly and nervously taps her left foot on a woven, brown-patterned rug.

INTERCUT

The grandfather clock ticks.

Harriet taps her fingers on her purse.

The grandfather clock continues to tick.

Harriet glances briefly at her watch.

The clock continues to tick.

Harriet pulls a white handkerchief from her purse and gently dabs her forehead with it.

The clock continues to tick.

Harriet nervously glances around. Her gaze settles on...

INT. LIVING ROOM - WALL

INSERT - PHOTO

Harriet, her husband, JOHN, and daughter, JENNIFER, outside the family candy store. The sign in the window reads "SEALY'S CANDIES. WHERE LIFE IS ALWAYS SWEET." Harriet and John are in their mid-30s, Jennifer, a gangly 11, sporting braces.

BACK TO SCENE

Harriet continues to gaze at the photo and smiles.

Suddenly, the clock ticks a little louder as it approaches 1 p.m.

Harriet, slightly startled, presses her hand to her heart.

INT. LIVING ROOM - ENTRY - DAY

JENNIFER LOCKE (46) enters the room. Earthy, blond, statuesque. Dressed in brown khakis and a yellow, pull-over sweater, she is naturally beautiful. Her eyes are red and puffy. She knots her hair in a ponytail.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer shuffles her feet and keeps her head down.

Harriet's eyes droop slightly, but she keeps a stiff upper lip.

HARRIET SEALY

I could always tell when you had  
bad news for me.

Jennifer fights a smile. She continues to avert Harriet's gaze.

JENNIFER LOCKE

Mom...

Jennifer turns away and folds her arms.

HARRIET

Jennifer. Tell me what you have to  
tell me.

JENNIFER

You already know.

Harriet looks down briefly, bites her lip and looks back up with a smile.

HARRIET

Yes, I know. But, what have I  
always taught you?

Jennifer uncrosses her arms and instinctively straightens.

JENNIFER

I know. Say what you mean. Mean  
what you say...

JENNIFER AND HARRIET

(in unison)  
...Words to live by.

They smile at each other and laugh slightly.

The grandfather clock suddenly gongs.

Startled, they both look at the clock and then, slowly, at each other.

JENNIFER

Mom...

Jennifer bites her lip.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

...you can't stay here any more.

Harriet tenses up and lets out a deep, world-weary sigh.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

We decided it was best.

HARRIET

You mean Donald decided.

JENNIFER

Mom, Jeff's coming home from college in a week. We need the room back. It's tough enough that Tony and Lily still have to share a room.

Harriet casts a suspect glance.

Jennifer lowers her head and fights back tears.

HARRIET

You have a voice, too, you know. What do you want, Jennifer?

Jennifer slowly looks up, her eyes red.

JENNIFER

I want Dad to still be here so you won't be alone.

Harriet, caught off guard, freezes.

Jennifer shakes slightly and starts to bawl.

Harriet's eyes soften and well up.

Harriet slowly rises from the chair and walks toward her daughter.

Jennifer, sobbing, walks to her mother, arms outstretched.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Mom, I'm so sorry.

They hug. Harriet comforts her daughter, gently rubbing the back of her head.

HARRIET

All right, Jennifer. Everything will be all right.

Jennifer continues to hug her mother.

After a few moments, Jennifer pulls back and wipes her face.

JENNIFER

How will everything be OK? You'll have to live in a nursing home.

Harriet's soft eyes narrow and harden.

HARRIET

You know I don't belong in a nursing home.

JENNIFER

I know, Mom. But, after Dad passed, you did have a heart attack. The doctors say...

HARRIET

...Doctors, pooh. That was six months ago. I'm as healthy as an ox. You know I walk and swim at the "Y" four times a week.

Jennifer starts to cry again.

Harriet's eyes go soft as she gently touches her daughter's shoulders.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

Jennifer. Look at me.

Jennifer gathers herself and looks her mother in the eyes.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

This has been hard on everybody. I don't want to make things any more difficult than they already are.

JENNIFER

What are you saying?

Harriet glances at the photo on the wall and smiles.

HARRIET

I'll go. But, on one condition.

Jennifer wipes her wet eyes. She's all ears.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

Your father and I spent our whole life running that candy store. And we loved every day. God knows, it was a great place for you kids to hang around and grow up. But, we knew the day would come when we would no longer have the energy to run things.

JENNIFER

You were smart. You sold it and got a good price. You ensured your retirement.

HARRIET

We waited too long.

Harriet looks at the photo again and bows her head.

Jennifer looks at the photo and gently closes her eyes.

Harriet returns her attention to Jennifer.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

Jennifer, your father and I had dreams of taking a cruise around the world.

JENNIFER

You never told me that. That's a good dream.

HARRIET

It was a good dream.

(beat)

Tomorrow, it becomes a reality.

JENNIFER

Mom, what are you saying?

HARRIET

I'm saying I'm taking that cruise.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEPTUNE CRUISE LINES SHIP - PORT - DAY

The horn blows loudly and smoke billows from the smokestack as the ship slowly sails out of port.

EXT. SHIP'S BOW - DAY

Excited cruisers throw confetti.

Harriet, among the group, holds on to her sun hat with one hand and grasps the rail with the other.

A YOUNG COUPLE, standing nearby, notices Harriet.

YOUNG WOMAN  
First cruise?

Harriet nods.

YOUNG MAN  
You're gonna love it.

Harriet smiles excitedly and savors the fresh, sea air.

A gust of wind suddenly blows her sun hat off.

HARRIET  
Oh!

Harriet reaches for the hat, but reacts too late.

The hat slowly floats downward...

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

...and lands on the ocean before floating away.

EXT. SHIP'S BOW - DAY

Harriet watches the hat float away.

HARRIET  
Oh, and I just bought that hat.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I'm sorry.

The Young Man nods his condolences.

Suddenly, the ship's BURSAR (28), a strapping, dark, handsome man in uniform, approaches.

BURSAR  
Come with me, young lady.

Harriet, confused, looks at the Young Woman next to her.

The Bursar looks at Harriet.

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