

PEEL

Written by

Annika Cassidy

Running time 4 mins
30th June 2016

8 Shelbourne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
+353 834718840
Cassidyannika@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. OLIVIA'S DRIVEWAY. EVE

It's dusk. Olivia(16) giggles innocently with school friends all in uniform, as they walk home. She parts from the group and turning into her driveway, she waves good bye.

OLIVIA

Bye!

FRIENDS

Bye Olivia!

Olivia turns away from them and we see her face begin to form a worried expression as she looks on at her home. The house is dark, in contrast to the other welcoming homes on either side lit up. She takes an anxious deep breath as she gingerly puts her key in the lock and opens the door.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE- HALLWAY. EVE

The house is quiet and dark.

OLIVIA

Hello?

No answer. Olivia turns on a lamp. Still no sign of the movement in the house she would expect at this time of day. She drops her colourful bag with cartoon keyrings clanging as she does so- the only noise we hear in the house. She walks into the living room.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE- LIVING ROOM. EVE

It's too dark to see anything. She flicks on the light switch and we see a woman's body lifeless, lying half off the couch, head touching the floor.

OLIVIA

(jumping backwards with fright)

MUM!

Olivia stays standing still as she takes in what she sees. Her hand to her mouth, her face drains of blood and she begins to shake. She hesitates at the door and works up the courage to move towards the body.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Mum? Mum?... Mum.

Olivia doesn't dare touch her. Her MOTHER(51) begins to move.

MOTHER
(confused)
Oh, what.

OLIVIA
Oh my God!

Olivia catches her breath as her mother begins to sit up. Mother fixes her dirty clothes that have slipped off her shoulders.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Jesus.

MOTHER
(slurring)
Oh, what happened?

A bottle of brandy lies on the floor empty. Mother wipes away drool on the side of her face. She is heavily intoxicated and cannot focus her eyes.

OLIVIA
I thought you were dead!

MOTHER
I? Ah... What happened? What time
is it pet?

OLIVIA
This has to stop. Enough.

She begins to cry.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
How can you do this to me?
(pause)
How can you keep doing this?

MOTHER
I'm sorry. I just had one drink.

OLIVIA
No you didn't! Stop lying! Look
what you're doing to me.

MOTHER
I can't believe this. I just had
one drink. It's so weird. I took a
headache pill. That must be why
it's gone to my head.

Olivia sits on opposite couch and puts her head in her hands.

OLIVIA
Stop lying.

Mother spots a Waterford crystal decanter filled with red wine on a dresser near by. She tries to get up and slumps back into the couch. She tries again and gets onto her feet. She begins to walk towards it. Olivia notices the movement and raises her head.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

Mother grabs the decanter and puts it up to her lips using both hands. Olivia jumps up and tries to wrestle it out of her hands.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
What are you doing! Stop it!

The wine begins to spill.

MOTHER
Please! Please let me.

Olivia wins the decanter and steps back shocked at her mother's begging. Their roles have fully been reversed.

OLIVIA
Please?

MOTHER
(pathetic)
Let me have it. Please!

Olivia is conflicted; horrified, pitiful, disappointed.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
(suddenly angry)
Give it to me!

OLIVIA
This is so important to you? This precious wine.

Olivia shakes the decanter around.

MOTHER
Be careful with that! It's Waterford crystal, a wedding present to your Dad and me. He loved it.

OLIVIA

This fucking bottle is more important to you than your own daughter.

MOTHER

What are you doing? Put it down.

Olivia hurls it at the wall. There is a huge smash of glass. Both women recoil from the shards.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

The red wine is visually dramatic against the white walls and curtain. It slowly seeps down the wall silently.

OLIVIA

Now it's broken too.

Mother bends down swaying while she attempts to pick up the pieces.

MOTHER

What have you done? Oh my God. Your father would have been heart broken.

OLIVIA

My father would have been disgusted.

Olivia walks out of the room. She puts her long curly hair in a ponytail as she walks.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE- HALLWAY. EVE

She picks up the mail scattered at the door. She continues into the kitchen.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE- KITCHEN. EVE

She puts the mail on the counter. She fills the kettle and puts it on. She takes out a pot and places it on the stove. She takes out the potatoes from the pantry and begins to peel them, quickly wiping away her tears.

FADE OUT.

