

A MOTHER'S LOVE

IMPACT50

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jess (16) lies on her bed writing in her diary.

JESS (V.O.)  
It's my fault. Always my fault.

Jess touches the bruise on her arm, winces. Mother (38) enters the room, swaying, clearly drunk. Grabs Jess's arm.

MOTHER  
I told you to clean your room!

JESS  
I did, Mum. It's clean, look!

Mother runs her finger along the dusty bookshelf.

MOTHER  
What's this then?

JESS  
I'm sorry, I didn't see it.

Mother drags Jess off the bed, pushes her face to the shelf.

MOTHER  
Can you see it now?

JESS  
Sorry, Mummy. I'm sorry.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

Mother drags Jess down the stairs by her hair. Jess whimpers. Mother stumbles, hurts her ankle. Jess falls, bangs her head.

MOTHER  
Now look what you made me do!

JESS  
It's okay, Mum. You'll be alright.

INT. LIVINGROOM - DUSK

Mother slouches on the couch while Jess bandages her ankle.

MOTHER  
Too tight! You'll cut off the circulation.

Mother slaps Jess. Jess cowers, loosens the bandages and elevates Mother's foot. Jess sits silently at the other end of the couch. A announcement flashes up on the TV. Jess moves closer to the screen.

JESS

Oh my god. We're all gonna die.

MOTHER

Believe it when I see it. Wine, cheese, Get it, now!

JESS

You shouldn't drink-

Mother throws the remote at Jess.

MOTHER

Do as you're told.

Jess backs out of the room. Mother laughs at the TV show.

INT. KITCHEN - DUSK

Jess makes up a platter and heart-shaped note: Love you, Mum.

INT. LIVINGROOM - DUSK

Jess enters the room. Sets down the tray. Mother glares.

MOTHER

That's not a cheese knife, you fucking idiot!

Mother screws up the note, throws it on the floor.

JESS

Sorry, Mum. I made a mistake.

MOTHER

And my mistake was giving birth to a dumb bitch like you ...

Jess (sobbing) grabs the carving knife, stabs Mother several times. Shocked, Mother holds her bleeding stomach. Jess stands over her, shaking.

Mother's head lulls, light gone from her eyes. Jess drops the knife. Sits. Draws a heart on her mother's top with her bloody finger. Cuddles up, watches TV, her head rests on dead Mother's shoulder.