

(The Last Hurrah)

by  
(Esther Doorly)

Revisions by  
(Kelly McErlean)

Name Kelly McErlean  
087 668 7916

SCENE 1

EXT - BESIDE A BUSY ROAD - DAY

Sarah stands by the edge of the road waiting for her son Jack to catch up

SARAH

"Jack. Will you please hurry up?  
You'll be late for school."

JACK

"Look at this Mum"  
(Holds up a stone)  
"Can I keep it?"

SARAH

"Jack put that dirty thing down"  
(Grabs stone out of his  
hand and fires it in the  
direction of house. We  
hear shattering glass)  
"Ah Jack, look what you've made me  
do... Run quickly. I'm not paying  
for that."  
(The two run - laughing)  
"Do you have your lunch?"

Jack nods...they see another mother and daughter

SARAH (CONT'D)

"Hi Martha...you'll never believe  
what I've just done."

MARTHA

"Ah Sarah that's terrible..."

They both laugh

OUTSIDE SCHOOL  
GATES

SARAH

"Bye love."  
(Gives Jack a big kiss and  
tightens his scarf and  
tucks in his jumper)  
"I'm going to the shop to get a few  
groceries. Are you on for a quick  
coffee?"

MARTHA

"Can't today Sarah have to fill in for Carmel. She's sick."

SUPERMARKET

Sarah is looking at the notice board

A notice reads 'cleaning job'. She takes down the name and telephone number. She phones the number on her mobile.

SARAH

"Hi my name's Sarah Johnston. I am just ringing about your ad for a cleaner. Irish? Yes of course. I could get you a reference. Sure. That's no problem. I'll just ring to make sure that's ok. Tomorrow morning is perfect. Bye"

She makes another call.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(A little nervously.)

"Hello, Mrs O'Reilly? Sarah Johnston here. Yes. I'll be there on Wednesday. I've been offered a couple more hours cleaning on Tuesday morning and the woman said she would need a reference. She said she would much prefer to talk to you. Would you mind if I gave her your number?"

(cringes)

And Mrs O'Reilly. Could we not mention that little incident last year. I really need this job. Thanks. Bye."

She takes down the ad from the notice board and walks to the shop assistant.

SARAH (CONT'D)

"This position has been filled."

FADE OUT

SCENE 2

INT - At home. The kitchen. Sarah is setting the table - EVE

JACK

"Can I play my playstation?"

SARAH

"After dinner Jack now go and wash your hands."

Jack obeys

The clock on the wall says six o'clock. We hear a door opening. Enter Jack and Dad - Martin.

MARTIN

"Never got a chance to eat all day. A big order came in before lunch and that was it."

SARAH

"Nearly ready."

Martin goes to the fridge. Takes out a beer, slugs it and burps. Sarah is serving out the dinner.

SARAH (CONT'D)

"Martin just sit and eat will you. I have to rush. Martha and I are heading to yoga and I'm running late."

(Martin sits at the table.)

"Sarah this is shite. You're never here in the evening."

Takes another drink - burps and waits at the table to be served.

SARAH (CONT'D)

"What are you talking about? I'm here every evening."

(Puts massive meat and 2 veg dinner on the table.)

"Anyway I'm going...oh and Martin, I've landed a new job with the Jacobs in Riverdale. A few more cleaning hours."

(Jack enters and shows Sarah his hands.)

"That's a good boy Jack. Lovely clean hands. Now sit down with your Dad and eat all your dinner."

MARTIN

"No you're not. You're not cleaning. We have enough anyway...clean your own house first, have you seen the state of this place? I'm sick of it Sarah ...ever since you started hanging around with that arsehole Martha you've really changed. You're never satisfied."

Sarah walks out.

SARAH

"Piss off Martin! We don't have enough. We haven't been on a holiday since Jack was born and I'm sick of it."

Sarah walks out slamming the front door.

FADE OUT

SCENE 3

EXT - OUTSIDE THE JACOB'S HOUSE - MORN

Early morning. Tuesday. 9.00am. Sarah holds up a piece of paper checking the address, she walks to the door of the house. You can see by her expression she thinks the place is very nice. She looks at her watch, 9.05am, switches off her mobile, quickly tidies herself up, pulls down her skirt, buttons her shirt. Then she checks her breath. She takes a deep breath and walks up the staircase.

She rings the doorbell. No answer. 30 seconds go by. She rings the doorbell again. No answer. After another 30 seconds she turns to walk away. It is obvious she is quite disappointed. She walks away.

The door opens.

MRS. JACOB

"Dear. I'm terribly sorry."  
(Sarah looks delighted.)

SARAH

"Mrs. Jacob I presume. Hi I'm Sarah Johnston. I'm here about the cleaning job."

MRS. JACOB

"Come in. Sorry about the delay. My hearing is not as good as it used to be."

Sarah and Mrs. Jacob walk in. Sarah follows Mrs. Jacob into the kitchen. The house is quite dark, Edwardian. All the furniture are antiques - lots of landscapes on the wall. The drawing room is very old and dingy looking with some lovely china cups and saucers. There are some candles on the table.

MRS. JACOB (CONT'D)

"Would you like a cup of tea? I've just made it."

SARAH

"Oh thank you that would be nice."

(Mrs. Jacob hands her a cup and saucer.)

"These are lovely cups Mrs. Jacob."

MRS. JACOB

"Call me Ada dear, they were my mother's. The only thing we managed to take with us during the war. Mr. Jacob, my husband, broke one the other day. I nearly died.

(We can hear Mrs Jacob speaking as Sarah looks around the room)

He's not very steady anymore, bedridden now. It's terrible really, he used to be so mobile. But now that I have to take care of him and keep the house, well it has all got too much for me. He suggested I get help, 'a nice young girl to help you Ada, that's what we need.' Those were his exact words. Poor Mr. Jacob, he is always thinking of me."

(Puts on coat, scarf and gloves. Checks bag.)

"Now my dear, I've left a list of things I need doing on the cabinet in the drawing room. Mr Jacob's asleep. He may wake at 11.00. If he does make him a cup of tea. I have a bridge morning so I have to rush. I'll pay you every second week. 10 Euro per hour yes? Oh and please be careful with the antiques!"

Sarah nods.

SARAH

"Thank you Mrs.. I mean Ada and you don't have to worry about a thing. I'll have this place ship shape in no time."

Ada closes front door.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 4

INT - MR AND MRS JACOB'S BEDROOM. - MORN

Clock on the wall says 11.00am.

Sarah is cleaning the room. We see the old man asleep in bed. He has a nightcap on. The room is very dark. Blue velvet navy curtains. Dark mahogany four poster bed with navy bedspread. He opens his eyes, stares at Sarah but does not move a muscle. Sarah does not see him wake.

Sarah opens the closet. A heavy mahogany closet. It is laden with beautiful clothes and lines and lines of shoes, handbags and fur coats. All the clothes are 1940s style. You can see Sarah is very taken by them. She takes out a full length mink coat and holds it to her cheek, breathes heavily and smiles. 1940s music begins. We see old man looking. Sarah looks at herself in full length mirror tries on mink coat and puts her hair up with her hands. She starts to put on bits of jewelry which are on the mantelpiece.

SARAH

"Oh how frightful. My dear husband bought it for our wedding anniversary."

It is obvious Sarah is enjoying these luxuries. She looks in mirror again and catches Mr. Jacobs' eye. She is scared and starts to put things back.

MR. JACOB

(Calmly)

"Oh I'm sorry. Did I startle you?"

SARAH

"I'm very sorry... Mr. Jacob. It's just they're such beautiful clothes. Mrs Jacob hired me this morning too..."

MR. JACOB

(Smiles)

"Clothes that have been left in that closet for a long time. Try the coat on again."

Sarah puts the coat on. She feels uneasy.

MR. JACOB (CONT'D)

"Do you like it? I bought it for Ada. It was beautiful on her. It's beautiful on you."

Camera is on Sarah but Mr. Jacobs continues speaking.

MR. JACOB (CONT'D)

"You should wear your hair up dear. Do you like the feel of the coat? Ada always said it was 'empowering'."

We cut to Mr. Jacob. We can hear the rummaging of clothes. Eventually Mr. Jacob speaks.

MR. JACOB (CONT'D)

"Don't be embarrassed. You can try on any clothes you want."

THIRTY SECONDS ON HIS FACE.

MR. JACOB (CONT'D)

"Now that's much better. You never told me your name."

SARAH

"Sarah."

MR. JACOB

"What a beautiful name. A perfect name for someone so .... Maybe you could.....(pause)....hoover? Be careful you don't miss anything."

We hear the hoover turn on. Mr. Jacob just watches, never moving.

MR. JACOB (CONT'D)  
"You can take the coat with you  
Sarah."

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 5

INT - SARAH'S HOUSE - EVE

The clock on the wall says 6pm. Sarah is sitting at the table looking at holiday magazines. She looks at the wall clock, jumps up and puts the brochures away. We hear the door open.

MARTIN  
"I'm starving. I didn't get a  
chance to eat lunch today. Where is  
Jack?"

SARAH  
"He's at his friends. His Mum said  
she would drop him back after  
football."

MARTIN  
"Who owns the manky coat in the  
hall?"

SARAH  
(Guiltily)  
"That's Martha's. She will collect  
it later. Some theatre group she is  
involved in own it and she's going  
to collect it later."

MARTIN  
"What's for dinner?"

Goes to fridge. Takes out beer. Opens it and drinks. Burps.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 6

INT - THE HARLEQUIN - AFT

Busy city centre shop. Deals with antique clothing.

Sarah walks in.

FIONA

"Can I help you?"

SARAH

"I've got these clothes and jewelry. Victorian and pre-1920's. They were my grandmother's. I believe they are worth about a grand. What do you think. Would you be interested in buying them? A friend of mine recommended you."

Fiona takes out a few bits and pieces. She is struck by the clothes, especially the coat.

FIONA

"Jesus. These are good. Yes. Sure we'll take them. I'll give you a eight hundred for the lot! That's the best I can do. I know they are really rare and the coat is worth a lot more but I only really have one client who buys this sort of stuff."

Sarah is obviously ecstatic. She tries to play it down.

SARAH

"Well as long as you make sure they go to a good home. Particularly the coat. My grandmother really loved that."

Fiona takes out a cheque book.

FIONA

"Who do I make it out to?  
If you have any more of this stuff bring it in and I'll have a look at it."

Sarah smiles. She leaves the shop and walks down the street.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 7

We see Sarah walking with cheque in hand into a travel agency. She makes a phone call on the way in.

SARAH

"Hi Ada. It's Sarah. I'm terribly sorry. I won't be able to come back. Something has come up. I'm sorry to let you down. I just can't fit it in anymore. Sarah."

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 8

Sarah and Jack pack their bags. Sarah leaves a note on the fridge for Martin.

SARAH

"Come on Jack. Hurry. We'll miss our flight."

SCENE 9

The wall-clock says 6pm. The door slams and we hear Martin enter.

MARTIN

"Hi Sarah. I'm starving. What's for dinner?"

Martin is unaware that no-one is home. He walks to fridge, opens it and takes a beer out. He sees note on fridge. Close up of note.

SARAH

(Voiceover)

"Hi Martin, get your own stinking dinner you big fat shite. Sarah."

Martin drops the beer.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

Jack and Sarah on the beach. Sarah drinks a cocktail and Jack is playing in the sand.

JACK

"Look at this Mum. Can I keep it?"

SARAH

"Yes love. Yes you can."

End