

SEND ME WINGS

LOCKED SCRIPT
8.1.19

Written by

Melissa Scaramucci
Lance McDaniel
Rachel Cannon

A short film based on the song, story, and script by Bobby Cyrus.

Lance McDaniel
123 NE 2nd Street, Apt G 23
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405-488-5804

1 EXT. DOWNTOWN OKLAHOMA CITY - MORNING 1

The downtown streets are crowded with people heading to work.

2 INT. CITY STREET W STREETCAR - MORNING 2

SARAH, late 30s, blonde, chic and attractive executive steps off the curb and crosses the street as the streetcar passes behind her.

3 EXT. LEADERSHIP SQUARE - DAY 3

SARAH walks into the modern office building.

4 INT. OFFICE - DAY 4

SARAH in a modern office going over designs. Her assistant, AVERY, walks in with coffee and a handful of sketches.

ASSISTANT
Morning, Sarah.

SARAH
Morning, what's our day?

AVERY
Paige has requested to bump up their fall launch, which means we need their final designs this weekend. Here are the current sketches.

Avery lays the sketches on the desk.

SARAH
Well, that's a bold request. Not gonna happen. I'll see what I can do Monday morning. I have to handle some personal stuff this weekend.

AVERY
Anything I can do to help?

SARAH
Wanna buy a church?

AVERY
You own a church?

SARAH

Not for long. I haven't been back since I was a little girl, and I am NOT looking forward to it. (Then) But we can do hard things, right?

AVERY

(smiles)
We can.

5 EXT. MAJOR HIGHWAY - LATE AFTERNOON 5

Afternoon sun lights up fields of wheat that go on forever. SARAH glides down the highway in her hybrid/Mini Cooper.

6 EXT. RURAL HIGHWAY - EVENING 6

SARAH drives down the rural highway, with her window down and music playing.

7 EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT 7

SARAH pulls up to the abandoned church.

The deteriorating walls of this forgotten place looms against the night sky. A massive truck and spools of electric wire dominate the church parking lot. She gets out of her car and slowly takes in the broken surroundings - beer cans, spray paint cans, the remains of a fire.

Sarah cautiously approaches the doorframe and touches the handle as we:

SMASH CUT:

7A INT. OLD CHURCH FLASHBACK: 7A

MED - Door flies open with shadowy figure

C/U - Old Dirty Boots walk down the aisle with heavy intent.

C/U - A LITTLE BLONDE GIRL screams

BACK TO:

8 EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT 8

SARAH inhales sharply, then is immediately startled by a noise inside the church.

SARAH SCREAMS

She hears footsteps running inside the church.

SARAH ducks to hide, then runs around the side of the church. She hears more noises and runs back to the entrance. From the front, she sees a small figure run away, duck behind a row of trees, and disappear.

SARAH jumps in her car and leaves the church in the dust.

TITLE: Send Me Wings

9 EXT. COURTHOUSE - MORNING 9

SARAH walks across the town square to the courthouse and enters.

10 INT. COURTHOUSE - MORNING 10

PLOP

An officious SECRETARY drops a large title book onto a study table in the middle of a records room. She begins flipping through it as she speaks.

SECRETARY

All the titles are listed here.
Once we have confirmation that the
land is actually yours, THEN, you
may go in to see Mrs. Hall.

SARAH

How long will that take?

SECRETARY

Could take months.

SARAH is shocked.

SARAH

I don't have months.

SECRETARY

Weeks at best.

SARAH

I need this today.

SECRETARY

Some of these properties haven't been properly zoned since the Land Run. (Beat) Well lookie here! Must be your lucky day.

11 INT. COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE - DAY

11

SARAH stands across the counter from MRS. HALL, a small but imposing woman in her 70s who looks as though she could beat the butter or beat you with the churn.

MRS. HALL
Planning to sell it?

SARAH
Definitely.

MRS. HALL
Good. That church is cursed.

SARAH looks up, but does not respond.

MRS. HALL (CONT'D)
If you like, I could connect you with a buyer this afternoon. The oil companies have been circling that, well, ever since your mother passed.

Off Sarah's offended look.

MRS. HALL (CONT'D)
Sorry for your loss, by the way.

SARAH
Thanks. Why wasn't this land part of her original estate?

MRS. HALL
I don't know.

SARAH
Didn't you handle that for her--

MRS. HALL
She didn't want anyone but you deciding on the church. (Beat) Which is ridiculous if you ask me.

SARAH
With all due respect, I didn't. Ask you.

MRS. HALL curtly hands Sarah a card.

MRS. HALL

Either way, give Jerry Garnett a call. He's the best of the bunch.

12

EXT. COURTHOUSE - LATE MORNING (DAY TWO)

12

JAMES(50s) affable-looking guy opens the door as SARAH exits.

SARAH

Thank you.

JAMES

No problem.

She continues down the steps.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You selling that church?

She stops and turns around.

SARAH

I am. You wanna buy it?

JAMES

(smiles)

You look good, Sarah.

Sarah studies his familiar face.

SARAH

James?

JAMES

Rachel said you were here.

SARAH

(laughs)

I forgot how fast news travels. What are you up to these days?

JAMES

I run the movie theater.

SARAH

That's fun.

JAMES

Serves it's purpose. Just like your church.

SARAH
 Currently my "purpose" is hoarding
 dead rats and blocking oil
 production.

JAMES
 (laughs)
 Need any help with that?

SARAH
 I'm good, but thank you. Great
 seeing you. Please tell your family
 hello for me.

JAMES
 I will. Welcome home.

13 EXT. CHURCH - DAY 13

Sarah pulls up to the church and pulls herself together outside the car. She knows she has to get through those doors. She cautiously opens the doors and peaks inside.

14 INT. CHURCH - DAY 14

SARAH pokes her head through the door and slowly steps inside. She hears a faint scuffling sound.

SARAH
 Hello?

SARAH starts to step into the abandoned church, stepping over beer cans, spray paint, the remains of a fire, etc.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Oh, please don't be rats. Or
 spiders. Or ghost.

A scuffling sound near the altar catches her attention. She walks up to find a small workstation hidden behind the pulpit. On it are a few Bibles, some feathers, and crayons.

One of the bibles is open and has clearly served as the coloring book. There are images of wings and birds throughout. It's opened to Psalms 55:6 which has been heavily colored.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 (reading)
 "And I say, "O that I had wings
 like a dove! I would fly away and
 be at rest."

SARAH runs her hand across the bible, as we:

SMASH CUT TO:

14A INT. OLD CHURCH FLASHBACK: 14A

C/U - LITTLE GIRL smiles, nestled in her mother's arm

MED - Door flies open with shadowy figure

C/U - Old Dirty Boots walk down the aisle with heavy intent.

C/U - LITTLE GIRL screams

C/U - A shotgun is racked

C/U - a bible drops to the floor in front of her feet

SOUND: SHOT. SHOT. SHOT.

15 INT. CHURCH - DAY 15

C/U Sarah's face. Years have passed but the pain of that memory has stayed with her. SARAH is emotional as she processes her surroundings. She hears something and looks up to see a little boy walking in. He sees her and starts to run.

SARAH
Wait. Stay? Please.

He stops and looks back at her. He can see she's been crying. He cautiously stays.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Are these your things?

He nods.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I'm Sarah. I used to come to this church when I was a little girl.
(Beat) You're quite the artist.

She points to the bible with his drawings. He smiles but looks down.

SARAH (CONT'D)
What's your name?

JESSIE
(mumbles)
Jessie.

SARAH
Do you sleep here, Jessie?

Jessie nods his head no as he shuffles his foot on the ground.

SARAH (CONT'D)
You like birds?

She points to the birds in his drawings. His face lights up.

JESSIE
Those are wings. He said he would send me some.

SARAH
Who?

JESSIE
When it's red, that's him talking to me. He said he'd send me wings so I can fly home.

SARAH
Where's home?

JESSIE
Heaven.

SARAH
Sounds like a nice place, huh?

JESSIE
(smiles)
Yeah.

Jessie starts to warm up a little.

SARAH
What's your home like here?

JESSIE
(quiet)
It's alright. I make my mom sad a lot. That's why I come here.

SARAH
My mom passed away this year. I think I made her sad a lot too.

Sarah's revelation about her mom helps Jessie see that she's kind of like him.

JESSIE
Why'd she die?

SARAH
She was sick. For a really long
time. I should have come to see her
more but it was really hard for me.

JESSIE
It's hard to be around sick people.

SARAH
(softly smiles)
Sometimes. But we can do hard
things, right?

Jessie smiles at her.

JESSIE
Yeah.

He jumps up and starts running around with his arms extended.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Want to see me fly??

She watches him run around and for a moment, forgets the dark
memories she was holding onto so tightly.

SARAH
(laughs)
I do!

His face lights up and he jumps off the pew then starts
coughing really hard. Sarah goes over and rubs his back.

SARAH (CONT'D)
You okay?

JESSIE
(covering)
Yeah. I'm fine.

Jessie stands up and races out the door.

Sarah sits on the hood of her car looking at the church with
different eyes.

17 EXT. CHURCH - DAY 17

SARAH pulls up to the church. As she gets closer, she notices JESSIE out in the field flapping his wings like he is flying.

After parking, she walks around the church to get a better view. He looks so free and happy.

18 EXT. PASTURE - DAY 18

JESSIE suddenly stops. He starts coughing, terribly. SARAH runs to him. He is doubled over, coughing up blood. As SARAH gets close, he looks up, sees her, panics, and takes off running.

SARAH
Jessie...

He doesn't stop. She walks over to see the blood and takes off after him.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Jessie! Wait!

She chases him into the woods.

19 OMIT 19

20 EXT. JESSIE'S HOUSE - DAY 20

SARAH comes up on a house surrounded by trash. This is not a home. She looks for Jessie but doesn't see him. She knocks on the door. GINA (40s), a harsh, broken woman. This is Jessie's mother. She opens the door and looks SARAH up and down.

GINA
Whatever you're sellin', I ain't buyin.

SARAH
I'm not selling anything. I'm actually looking for a little boy. Jessie?

GINA
(defensive)
I done told child services last week, if you got no warrant, stay the hell off my property.

SARAH

I'm not with child services. My name's Sarah. I saw him at the church..

GINA

Whatever he broke, I ain't got no money to pay for it.

SARAH

He didn't break anything, I'm just worried about him--

Gina's tone changes. She's suspect of this woman.

GINA

Are ya, Sarah? You gonna save my boy?

Sarah chooses her words carefully.

SARAH

He coughed up blood. I think he's really sick.

GINA

(sarcastic)

Ya don't say? (Beat) You got kids?

SARAH

I don't.

GINA

(cold)

Then back off. You don't know nothin' about this.

She slams the door in SARAH's face.

21

INT. RIALTO THEATRE - LATE AFTERNOON - (DAY THREE)

21

Sarah bursts into the theatre looking for JAMES.

JAMES

Hey, you okay?

SARAH

There's a little boy's hiding in the church. He's really sick.

JAMES

Jessie.

SARAH
You know him??

JAMES
Of course. Small town.

SARAH
Well why isn't anybody doing
anything to help him??

JAMES
It's not that simple, Sarah.

SARAH
At least I'm trying to do
something.

JAMES
You going to "fix" everything while
you're here for the weekend.

SARAH
That's not fair.

JAMES
That shooting broke this town.
People stopped caring about each
other. They gave up on the church.
Families fell apart. Kids like
Jessie are sick because the system
doesn't work anymore.

SARAH
It's really that bad?

JAMES
Not all of it. There are some of us
trying to shed light where we can.
But this is not the town you
remember.

Sarah takes this in.

SARAH
You should have seen his little
bible. He drew pictures all over it
of birds and wings--

JAMES
(smiles)
Glad to hear he's been using it.

SARAH

I'm sorry. I'm just worried about him.

JAMES

Yeah, me too.

22 EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

22

SARAH stands outside the church. The night is still and quiet. A familiar cough breaks the silence.

SARAH

Jessie!

23 INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

23

SARAH rushes to the altar to see JESSIE curled up on the floor and coughing uncontrollably. She cradles JESSIE in one arm and tries to call 911.

SARAH

Jessie. Hey buddy, we're going to get you some help? -- hello? I need an ambulance immediately. I need an ambulance. I've found a very sick child coughing up blood. We are just outside of town on Highway 76 at an abandoned.

JESSIE collapses and struggles to stay awake as SARAH speaks.

SARAH (CONT'D)

45 minutes to an hour? We may not have that long.

SARAH hangs up and frantically dials JAMES.

JESSIE

I'm getting my wings, Sarah. I'm gonna fly home.

SARAH

Not yet, just stay with me.

Sarah rocks Jessie back and forth, cradling his head.

SARAH (CONT'D)

It's Jessie. I called 911, they're coming from Fairview. We're at the church. Please hurry.

JESSIE has another coughing fit and is still. SARAH drops the phone, then tries CPR.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Jessie!! Breathe! Come on!

24 EXT. CHURCH 24

JAMES jumps out of his truck and runs into the church.

25 INT. CHURCH 25

JAMES runs inside to find Sarah sitting in the floor, holding this little boy who has died in her arms. She's humming him a song as tears run down her face. She's present and strong.

SARAH
He got his wings.

James just looks at Sarah. He can tell she's heartbroken.

SARAH (CONT'D)
This church was his sanctuary.
(Beat) Even like this.

JAMES
God's house doesn't have to be
perfect to be purposeful.

SARAH
I don't think I was brought here to
sell this church.

26 EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT 26

A blanket of stars light up the church.