

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. LUTZ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A couple dozen well-mannered GUESTS socialize. Several stand with plates of food or drinks, talking. A vinyl banner across the doorway with colorful block lettering reads, "Good Luck, Brandon!"

MARK LUTZ (45), smartly dressed in a suit, a detective's hard-nosed persona, is present, along with NICOLE WILLIAMS (40), a mom forced to be mature when she would rather party like a teen.

KITCHEN

AMY LUTZ (42), brunette, the classic motherly image from the 1950s but with a modern hairstyle, loads a dishwasher. She turns to the overflowing trash receptacle and pulls out the bag.

EXT. LUTZ BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

A dark alley runs behind the row of middle-class homes. This is a classic suburbia of business professionals raising children to be miniature copies of themselves.

By the alley, Amy drops the bag into a trash can on wheels. As she turns back to the house, she catches movement in the neighbor's yard, next to the fence. Someone peeks out from behind a tree, then ducks back.

Grinning, Amy goes to the fence.

AMY

Good evening, Neighbor-man.

JIM TOWNSEND (40s), a sweet, older appearance, very eccentric, a three-inch scar visible through his hair to the side of his head, pops into the open. He wears a super hero costume with an "N" on the chest and a sleek mask covering only his eyes, and speaks with a super hero's commanding authority.

JIM

Evening, Mrs. Lutz. Looks like you're a popular lady tonight.

AMY

It's Brandon's going away party. He leaves for college tomorrow.

JIM

Yes, the youngest Lutz. I'm sorry  
to see him go.

Amy looks back at her house with a troubled sigh.

AMY

So are we.

SALLY TOWNSEND (40s), friendly appearance but somewhat  
frazzled, hurries out of Jim's house and joins her husband.

SALLY

I thought you were watching TV.

JIM

It's commercial time.

SALLY

I think they're over now.

JIM

Oh, goody. I love watching those  
people spin the wheel. The colors  
are very pretty!

Jim dashes off to their house, his cape flapping behind him.

Sally amusingly shakes her head.

SALLY

Never a dull moment in our house.

AMY

I don't know how you do it.

SALLY

By taking it one day at a time. If  
I don't get to see Brandon before  
he leaves, tell him good luck from  
Jim and me.

Sally enters her house. Amy returns to hers.

INT. LUTZ HOUSE - BRANDON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A good deal of sports trophies and plaques from football,  
basketball, and baseball are displayed around the room. A  
framed award made out to Brandon Lutz for first place in a  
science fair hangs above the desk. This is clearly an over  
achiever's room.

BRANDON LUTZ (18), strong but sweet, athletic stature, sits at his desk, Skyping with SADIE LUTZ (20), tomboyish and relaxed, on his computer. His door stands open slightly.

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)  
How's Mom taking it?

BRANDON  
Pretty well, considering she's Mom.

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)  
You're the baby. Letting go of you won't be easy for her.

BRANDON  
It's all so scary. I don't know what the hell to do when I get there.

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)  
The first thing you do is check in with your R.A. They'll walk you through it.

Amy pushes the door open.

AMY  
You DO realize there's a party going on downstairs for you.

BRANDON  
Okay, okay. I'm coming.  
(to Sadie)  
See you later, sis.

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)  
Don't be a loser.

Brandon starts to close Skype.

AMY  
Wait, leave it on.

Brandon exits the room.

Amy sits down before the computer and smiles warmly at her daughter.

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)  
How are you doin`, Mom?

AMY  
(lying)  
I'm good, honey. What about you?

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)

Ready to start a new year. Hey, go easy on Brandon. He's scared about leaving home. I know how much it upsets you, but don't let him see it. It'll only make him feel worse.

Tears start to fill Amy's eyes. She fights to suppress them.

AMY

I'll try.

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)

He'll be fine. You raised him, didn't you?

Amy nods with a grin.

SADIE (ON COMPUTER)

We're having a little get together here, a last fling before classes start. Skype you this weekend?

AMY

Sure. Talk to you then.

Sadie disconnects their Skype session. A look of sorrow fills Amy's face.

INT. LUTZ LIVING ROOM - LATER

The SOUNDS of the party are audible in the B.G. Amy walks into the vacant room. She sadly goes to the bookcase, where dozens of pictures are displayed. It looks like a shrine for the Lutz family. The pics show a very happy and close family with Amy as a doting mom.

Amy places a hand over her mouth, trying to hold it together. PRINCESS, a cat, rubs against her leg and MEOWS. Amy picks her up.

AMY

You're not going to leave me too, are you?

Princess PURRS.

EXT. LUTZ HOUSE - MORNING

Brandon's hatchback is parked in the driveway, the hatch up. The interior is packed with his belongings.

Brandon and Mark each carry a duffel up to the car. Amy walks with them. Brandon wears a Texas State hoodie.

Jim, in costume, dashes over from his house. He takes a heroic pose.

JIM

Looks like a job for Neighbor-man!

Jim snatches the duffel from Mark's hands and shoves it into the crowded mess. Then he grabs Brandon's duffel and forces it inside. In the process, he knocks other things out to the driveway.

BRANDON

You really don't have to--

The duffels now fit inside but a few other things don't. Jim continues trying to make it all fit. A BREAKING sound comes from something inside a box.

BRANDON

Mom!

Amy takes Jim by the arm to stop him.

AMY

You were very helpful, Neighbor-man. Thank you.

JIM

Glad to serve my fellow neighbors.

Sally hurries over.

SALLY

Neighbor-man, how did you sneak out of the house?

JIM

I used my invisibility cloak.

Jim throws his cape around his upper body and face to demonstrate. Sally is very tolerant as she lowers it.

SALLY

Super heroes need a well-balanced meal to keep up their powers. It's on the table. I'll be right there.

JIM

Up, up, and away!

Jim makes a super hero exit by leaping into the air with full grace and then dashing off to his house.