

Swans Have Angel's Wings  
by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. THRISLEY CHURCH - DAY

SUPER: "THRISLEY, ENGLAND"

A summer's day. The sound of communal hymns accompanied by a harmonium emits from within.

INT. THRISLEY CHURCH - DAY

In the congregation is TOBY MUSTOW (6) who's fascinated by the brightly coloured stained glass windows. Each depicts a different angel with large, unfurled wings.

Singing heartily to Toby's immediate right is his father KIT MUSTOW (31), handsome and athletic.

To his left is his mother SALLY MUSTOW (27) attractive and also athletic.

Gazing further around Toby notices red-faced, plump REVEREND WATTS (62) smiling at him from the pulpit.

EXT. FELLBRIDGE - STATION - DAY

The Mustows greet Kit's arriving parents. GWEN MUSTOW (56) looks way too young to be a grandmother. MAURICE MUSTOW (62) is medium height, overweight and blind in his left eye.

EXT. MUSTOW RESIDENCE - REAR GARDEN - DAY

The well-appointed six bedroom house stands in its own splendid grounds with a summer house at the end of the garden. Across an adjoining small meadow is a large, dense wood.

Toby looks out from his bedroom window stroking his guinea pig Napoleon. But his attention is riveted on a path to the wood.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

TOBY  
Where are they nanny?

Gwen is cleaning Napoleon's cage.

GWEN  
Grandad's timing them; he'll know.

EXT. WOOD - DAY

Kit and Sally jog along a broad, pothole riddled path.

SALLY

No way Kit, you'll never beat Jago;  
he's fitter and a better runner.

KIT

But I'll be supported by five pace  
makers; he doesn't stand a chance!

She scoffs in fun. Piqued, he accelerates but she trips  
him. He tumbles into shrubbery disturbing a sickly badger.

He rolls clear and the coughing badger shelters in thicker  
undergrowth. Sally rushes over looking anxious.

SALLY

You can get TB from badgers!

KIT

I'm fine, really.

(beat)

Seems you want a head start?

She turns, runs and calls back.

SALLY

Count to twenty -- at least!

EXT. MUSTOW RESIDENCE - REAR GARDEN - DAY

Toby is playing football with Maurice when they hear Sally  
squealing joyfully.

At the garden gate they see Kit jogging along with Sally  
over his shoulder. Delighted, Toby rushes to meet them.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kit is reading Toby the poem "Rudiger" from a book titled  
"Robert Southey: Poetical Works".

KIT

Bright in the sleepy valley  
The day's last splendours shine  
And rich with many a radiant hue  
Gleam gaily on the Rhine.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MEDIEVAL GERMANY - THE RIVER RHINE - DAY

A COUPLE stroll happily as a swan approaches towing a streamer  
flowing boat.

KIT (V.O.)  
 As lovers stray'd a swan they saw  
 Sail stately up and strong  
 And by a silver chain she drew  
 A little boat along.

There's a snoozing knight aboard.

KIT (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Whose streamer to a gentle breeze  
 Long floating fluttered light  
 Beneath whose crimson canopy  
 There lay reclined a knight.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

KIT  
 T'was never a maid in old Koln...

Sally arrives and gestures to their sleeping son.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The four adult Mustows are having supper.

GWEN  
 But it's just a "fun-run", isn't it?

KIT  
 Well yes mum, but...

GWEN  
 (perplexed)  
 But what? Why does beating this "Jago  
 Stevens" matter so much?

Kit looks to Maurice for support but he just shrugs.

INT. THRISLEY - THE POACHER'S REST - NIGHT

The CROWDED pub ignores JAGO STEVENS (23) handsome, tall, well built and drunk. He's at a piano thumping out chords and wailing out of tune.

JAGO  
 (sings)  
*And after aaaaall..  
 You're my wonder waaa-aaaalll!*

With a final chord he takes a bow but only his besotted girl friend DENISE (19) applauds.

The gruff and burly landlord RAY (42) crosses the room, hurriedly.

RAY  
Marvellous Jago, marvellous!

Ray slams down the keyboard cover then turns towards the bar.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Daphne!

Behind the bar DAPHNE clangs a bell three times.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Time ladies and gents, time!

Jago shoves his empty glass forcefully into Ray's chest.

JAGO  
(belligerent)  
Get me another!

RAY  
(defiant)  
I've called "time", haven't I?

Enraged, Jago swings a punch at Ray who ducks then drags Jago to the door and to the crowd's delight, hurls him out.

INT. MUSTOW RESIDENCE - SALLY AND KIT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sally and Kit are snuggled in candle light caressing tenderly as they recite to each other.

SALLY  
(playfully coy)  
And many a rich and noble youth  
Had strove to win the fair...

KIT  
(playfully proud)  
But none for charm and chivalry  
Could rival Rudiger!

She looks at him lovingly and caresses his face.

SALLY  
(tenderly)  
His feats, his looks, his love  
O'er swept the willing fair  
And soon did Margaret become...

They gaze deep into each other's eyes, kiss passionately only to be startled by Toby at the door with the book.

LATER - NIGHT: The book lies discarded and Toby sleeps between his parents; she smiles, he shrugs.

EXT. FELLBRIDGE - STATION - SET DOWN POINT - DAY

Gwen and Maurice say goodbye to Toby, Sally and Kit who's dressed for running.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Kit is running hard. Exhausted, he stops to catch his breath. After a moment he's joined by Jago, also in running gear.

JAGO

I'd offer mouth-to-mouth but you're ugly!

He sprints away then glances back grinning contempt. Kit gives chase but soon pulls up agonized with stitch.

EXT. FELLBRIDGE - RIVER BANK - DAY

Toby and Sally are feeding ducks with bread. Sally alerts Toby to a couple of approaching swans.

SALLY

The larger one is a cob, the husband.  
His wife is called a pen.

She notices Kit jogging slowly their way. Then as the pen snaps up bread Sally reaches to stroke her.

In a flash the cob thumps Sally's forearm ferociously with the leading edge of his powerful wing. She cries out in agony.

Kit arrives and examines Sally's arm.

KIT

Let's get to the hospital.

INT. KIT'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Kit speeds along, Sally cradles her arm and Toby points to a flying swan closing from the left.

The swan passes over a lorry in front of them loaded with large logs. Suddenly, a securing strap snaps and Toby thinks the swan caused it.

The load sheds and Kit hauls hard on the steering wheel but it's too late.

Sally glances in terror to Toby as they crash sideways into tumbling logs.

The car flips onto its roof with other cars skidding all around. They slide along upside down then come to rest.

Kit fights to release his seat belt. Toby is still strapped into his child seat crying and Sally dangles, barely conscious.

His forehead bleeding, Kit forces open his door and smells petrol. He glances to Sally.

SALLY  
(dazed)  
Save... Toby...

EXT. KIT'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kit scrambles out on all fours and as he stands he's flattened under a rolling log.

OTHER PEOPLE suddenly appear. Some try to roll the log off Kit's back while others rescue Toby and Sally and take them to the verge.

MORE MEN join those struggling with the log and finally Kit is freed but he can't move his legs.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Gwen and Maurice stride anxiously through swing doors then on towards a desk. They speak briefly to a RECEPTIONIST who motions them to seats then makes a call.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Mustows sit opposite a WOMAN DOCTOR.

GWEN  
So why not let Toby home with us?

DOCTOR  
We'd prefer him here for a night of observations and...

GWEN  
You'll release Sally tomorrow, too?

DOCTOR  
Probably, she seems...

MAURICE  
But Kit..?

DOCTOR  
It'll be a couple of days before we're sure but...

GWEN  
But he will walk again?

DOCTOR  
It's touch and go.  
(beat)  
You must prepare for the worst, I'm  
afraid.

Gwen breaks down, Maurice grasps her hand and looks at the doctor in despair.

INT. TOBY'S PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Toby has a few bruises, Gwen and Maurice are bedside being brave.

TOBY  
The swan did it!

GWEN  
No Toby, it was an accident.

TOBY  
I saw it break the strap!

MAURICE  
It may have looked that way but...

Toby looks away, annoyed.

GWEN  
Do you want anything?

TOBY  
Where's mummy?

GWEN  
Just along the hall, quite close.

TOBY  
Where's daddy?

GWEN  
Upstairs, on the men's floor.

TOBY  
I want so see mummy.

Gwen rises.

GWEN  
I'll find out when we can see her.  
Grandad will keep you company.

She kisses Toby's forehead, pats Maurice's shoulder and leaves. Toby turns to Maurice.



TOBY

(angry)

The swan did it, I saw it!

Maurice shakes his head and sighs.

INT. SALLY'S PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Sally has bruises and her right arm is in plaster. She turns to Gwen.

SALLY

It's all my fault; I stroked that  
swan!

Gwen weeps and Sally breaks down sobbing bitterly.

INT. KIT'S PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

A NURSE is checking on unconscious Kit who's hooked up to monitors. Both his legs are plastered and suspended in slings.

Toby, Sally, Gwen and Maurice arrive. Toby is shocked by how Kit looks and immediately turns to the others.

They're all deeply upset. Toby turns again to stare at his motionless father. Toby wells tears and trembles.

EXT. MUSTOW RESIDENCE - FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Toby, Sally, Gwen and Maurice get out of a taxi parked at the front door.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Toby dashes in ahead of the others. He runs angrily to the stairs then up them as fast as he can.

The adults take off their coats and are startled by Toby's screams from upstairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - DAY

The three of them hurry towards Toby's room; they hear him crying from behind his closed door.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - DAY

They burst into the room and stop dead in their tracks.

Toby is standing on his bed holding the guinea pig cage over his head poised to throw it. Napoleon is inside scampering wildly about.

TOBY  
(hysterical)  
I hate animals, I hate all animals!

The three adults stare at Toby, stunned. Sally steps forward.

SALLY  
It's okay to be angry, Toby. It's  
not okay to punish Napoleon.

Streaming tears, Toby looks up at the underneath of the cage. He hears Napoleon's fearful squeaking as he dashes frantically around.

Sally sits on the edge of the bed with her hands in her lap and her eyes fixed on Toby's. Maurice is about to speak but Gwen grips his wrist.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
(softly)  
Toby...?

Toby bursts into tears, lowers the cage and sits next to Sally.

Gwen takes the cage. Sally puts her arms around Toby who snuggles into her breaking his heart.

EXT. MUSTOW RESIDENCE - NIGHT

There's an old Volvo Estate car parked across the road with it's lights off.

INT. VOLVO - CONTINUOUS

TWO SHADOWY MEN are in the front seats. The dashboard clock says "2 a.m." The men pull on masks.

They glance to the house. With smiling eyes they nod to each other and get out.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Toby is asleep in his bed until woken by the sound of breaking glass from somewhere in the house.

His eyes open wide. He stares at the ceiling and waits. There's no other noise. He closes his eyes again.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gwen and Maurice are sound asleep when the door to the room opens, quietly.

The masked men look in then leave.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The masked men ease the door gently open.

Toby opens his eyes for an instant then closes them. He keeps completely still as he listens to the two men breathing.

They close the door.

INT. SALLY AND KIT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The masked men open the door, realize it's the master bedroom and step inside.

THIEF #1  
(whispering)  
Just the jewellery box and we're  
gone.

Thief #2 nods and moves to the dressing table. Thief #1 steps towards Sally's bed.

Thief #2 has the jewellery box open and rifles through its valuables, delighted.

Clasping the box he joins thief #1 bedside and they watch Sally sleep.

They flash their grinning eyes to each other then each takes a corner of the bedclothes and eases them back, carefully. Thief #1 glances to his friend.

THIEF #1 (CONT'D)  
(hoarse whisper)  
Wouldn't you just love to...

TOBY  
No!

Astonished, they turn to see Toby in the doorway. Sally stirs.

Toby rushes to the bed and leaps onto Sally shouting.

TOBY (CONT'D)  
Mummy, mummy!

Alarmed, Sally reaches for Toby and sees the masked men.

SALLY  
(appalled)  
Oh Christ!

She grabs hold of Toby and notices that one of the men has her jewellery box.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Take it and go!

There's a voice from the doorway.

MAURICE  
I've called the police!

The two men look at Maurice then to each other.

THIEF #2  
Let's go J...

THIEF #1  
Shut up!

MAURICE  
So you're Jim...? Maybe John... or  
Jack...?

Thief #1 looks to thief #2 who nods towards the door which Maurice is blocking.

MAURICE (CONT'D)  
So far it's only breaking and  
entering. Leave the box, make it  
easier for yourselves.

Thief #1 gazes in envy around the smartly furnished room.

THIEF #1  
(hoarse whisper)  
It's never easy for the likes of us.

The thieves make towards Maurice who keeps his eyes on the jewellery box. Thief #1 nods to thief #2 who reluctantly passes Maurice the box.

Angry, thief #1 punches Maurice in the face and he tumbles over sending the box's contents flying into the air.

Sally screams. The thieves rush away.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

In the presence of a POLICE SERGEANT Jago sits opposite  
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR BOWLER (58).

BOWLER  
You could have walked away empty  
handed. But being you, you just had  
to punch him didn't you, Jago?

Jago is unruffled, icy.

JAGO

It wasn't me.

BOWLER

You towered over him... He's forty years your senior...

JAGO

It wasn't me.

BOWLER

You caught him on his blind side; he couldn't see it coming...

They stare at each other.

BOWLER (CONT'D)

I knew your dad. How ashamed of you do you think he'd...

Jago springs up with his fists balled. The sergeant makes a move but stops when Bowler raises his hand.

Glaring at the officers, Jago re-takes his seat.

JAGO

(calm)

It wasn't...

BOWLER

Who was the other man?

JAGO

I wasn't there.

BOWLER

Only someone local would have known that Mr. Mustow was hospitalized. You seized the chance, didn't you?

Jago gazes out the window.

BOWLER (CONT'D)

You're tall like the "J" at the Mustow house.

(beat)

You're the only "J" in Thrisley with a record for house-breaking.

(beat)

Look at me, son.

Jago turns to Bowler.

BOWLER (CONT'D)

And you don't have an alibi.

They stare at each other, intently.

JAGO

It wasn't me.

BOWLER

Tell it to the judge.

Bowler stands.

BOWLER (CONT'D)

(to the sergeant)

Charge him.

EXT. MUSTOW RESIDENCE - FRONT GARDEN - DAY

SUPER: "FIVE YEARS LATER".

Linda Dillion's car is parking on the drive.

INT. LINDA'S CAR - DAY

Parked, LINDA DILLON (52) inspects her short cropped, bright red hair in the rear view mirror. Irritated, she teases and shapes it then flops back in her seat shaking her head in dismay.

LINDA

(seething)

If he says one word, just one...

INT. LOUNGE DAY - DAY

Kit sits in a motorized wheelchair. He's unshaven and holds a large whisky.

From the french windows he sees Sally crossing the rear garden's fresh-cut lawn. She has a jug of iced orange squash and three glasses on a tray.

Kit hears a key in the front door. He spins the chair on a sixpence and heads for the hallway.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

HARRY (72) is turning off a sit-on mower and as he dismounts Toby scrambles eagerly onto his seat. Sally sets her tray down on a table.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Linda enters gripping a holdall. She sees Kit approaching and closes the front door behind herself. To her left is a room with its door open which she waits by.

Kit stops in front of her and she glares disapproval at his glass. With feigned astonishment, he views her hair.

KIT  
I'll say nothing...

He waggles his glass.

KIT (CONT'D)  
...if you won't.

She thinks.

LINDA  
All right. But you're getting a dry  
shave.

He grimaces, rubs his stubble and shrugs. They high five, he zips through the doorway and she follows closing the door.

INT. KIT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kit slips into a special needs equipped en-suit while Linda unpacks her holdall onto a treatment couch.

Kit's personal possessions are everywhere including photographs of Toby and Sally on a table by the single bed.

EXT. REAR GARDEN - DAY

SALLY  
Oh Harry, whatever will we do without  
you?

HARRY  
Still no response to the ads then?

SALLY  
No, nothing.

HARRY  
(warily)  
It's none of my business of course,  
but I'm sure that Jago...

SALLY  
(shocked)  
Jago Stevens? Never!

HARRY  
He still insists it wasn't him who...

SALLY

The judge said it was and that's good enough for me.

(beat)

That awful night still haunts me... It was the first I'd spent alone for years.

(beat)

Maurice was so brave, as was Toby. While that detestable coward Jago...

HARRY

Reverend Watts has got him into community work, mainly with underprivileged kids. And he's building his little business bit by...

SALLY

(fierce)

He was in my bedroom. He... he...

(beat)

I'll never forgive him!

Harry shrugs and turns away. She looks to Toby on the mower.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Toby!

He runs to them and they all sit and drink squash.

HARRY

Hey Toby, my labrador's just had her puppies if you'd like to...

Toby freezes and is aware Sally is looking at him.

TOBY

(awkward)

No thanks, Harry.

HARRY

(enthusiastic)

There's six of them all cute, cuddly and...

Toby puts his glass down a little too firmly.

TOBY

My friend's waiting.

SALLY

Friend, what friend?



TOBY

At the lake.

Toby gets up and dashes for the rear garden gate.

SALLY

Toby!

He yanks the gate closed behind himself.

Disappointed, Harry looks at Sally.

HARRY

We never said "goodbye".

EXT. WOOD - DAY

Toby skips over the potholes.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Toby stands alone at the water's edge skimming stones towards a small island a hundred yards from the shore.

EXT. FELLBRIDGE - RIVER BANK - DAY

Two pairs of swans have nests along the bank. A fifth swan with a short streak of brown feathers on her neck lands on the river.

Her approach towards the nests sets the females hissing and the males stand and spread their large wings.

The brown-streaked swan stops, launches into the air and flies away.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Toby skims another stone and to his utter amazement it bounces off a large turning fish. He notices that the light is fading.

INT. MUSTOW RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - DAY

Twilight is closing in. Sally smooths cream on to Kit's inflamed face and neck.

SALLY

What is it with you and Linda?

KIT

(cheery)

She calls it "tough love".

SALLY

Oh does she now?

KIT  
We share a grudging, mutual respect.

SALLY  
Hmm...

KIT  
It's a relationship that's more honest  
than pretty.

She takes this personally so rubs in the cream with more  
vigour until he grabs her by the wrist.

KIT (CONT'D)  
(cold)  
And honest relationships aren't  
everyone's "cup of tea".

They glare at each other.

KIT (CONT'D)  
Are they?

SALLY  
Let go!

He sneers and tightens his grip.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
That hurts!

She struggles and finally yanks her wrist free which hurts  
even more.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Ow!

They hear a snivel from the doorway and turn to see Toby in  
tears, watching them.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Toby sits at the table and Sally puts a meal before him.

SALLY  
So who was this friend today?

TOBY  
Eh?

SALLY  
At the lake.

TOBY  
Just someone.

Sally sits.

SALLY  
You never bring your friends home.

He shrugs. Sally waits for more.

TOBY  
I like it by myself. I can do what I  
want.

Toby pushes his plate away and looks sad.

TOBY (CONT'D)  
When will you and daddy be friends  
again?

Disturbed, she looks at him not knowing what to say. They  
hear the whirl of Kit's chair and he enters.

KIT  
(pleasant)  
Ah, you're back!

TOBY  
I was skimming stones.  
(excited)  
I hit a big fish turning on the  
surface!

KIT  
There's a pike in that lake older  
than you are. Once I saw it drag a  
duckling under.

Toby shudders.

KIT (CONT'D)  
Plenty have tried to catch it --  
including me. But he's...

TOBY  
I could catch it!

Kit taps his wheelchair.

KIT  
Who'd teach you how?

Toby looks glumly at the wheel chair and sighs.

KIT (CONT'D)  
And I gave my rod away.

SALLY  
Let's talk to grandad.

KIT  
(sarcastic)  
Of course grandad; forever our hero  
of the hour!

Sally feels awkward.

INT. SALLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In semi-darkness, Sally lies alone in her bed staring at the ceiling. After a moment, she looks sadly to the pillow next to her.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

An old transit van parks on the drive behind Linda's car.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Sally looks from the french windows at ankle-high grass and sighs. She hears the doorbell.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Sally opens the door and is taken aback to find a smiling Jago Stevens with his gardening services van on the drive.

SALLY  
(livid)  
No!

She slams the door and storms up the hallway towards the kitchen.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Jago is at the bottom of a wide steel ramp to the front door. He looks back to the house and sees Linda peeking from behind a curtain. He half waves and she vanishes.

Toby's hands appear from the other side of a six-foot fence dividing the front and rear gardens. He hauls himself up and locks his crossed arms along the top of the fence.

TOBY  
(shouts)  
We don't like you!

Jago nods a knowing smile, climbs into his van, leans on the steering wheel and stares forward. He glances to Toby, then to the front lawn's long grass.

After a moment a sudden idea leaves him nodding and smiling to himself.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sally is washing vegetables and cocks her head at an unexpected sound. She turns off the tap to listen and realizes that a petrol lawn mower is being used at the front of the house.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Striding to the front door Sally sees Linda pop her head out of Kit's room as Kit calls.

KIT (O.S.)  
(calling)  
What's going on?

SALLY  
(more to herself)  
Nothing I can't handle!

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Sally yanks the front door open. She steps out and shouts at Jago who's mowing the grass.

He glances to Sally but can't hear her over his noisy old mower which he turns off.

SALLY  
...think you're doing?

JAGO  
Helping, free of charge. I'll keep things nice until you find someone permanent.

SALLY  
Go or I'll call the police.

JAGO  
It wasn't me who...

SALLY  
Anymore than it's you now, eh?

She spots Toby hanging on the fence.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Toby get down from there!

He jumps back down behind the fence. Linda appears in the doorway.

JAGO

I had time in prison to re-think.  
I'm never going back there. My new  
life means too much.

(beat)

And like I said; there's no charge.

Jago smiles, pulls on the starter cord and continues. Linda comes up behind Sally.

LINDA

(quietly to Sally)

You know, I almost believe him.

SALLY

(appalled)

Linda!

LINDA

Neither you nor Maurice positively  
identified him. And I hear he's  
working wonders with those kids.

(beat)

Doesn't who he is today count for  
anything?

SALLY

No!

Linda shrugs and slips back into the house and Sally shouts at Jago.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I'm calling the police!

Sally shoots back inside and slams the door. Toby's head reappears over the fence as he resumes his position and watches Jago.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Furious, Sally stares at the floor then hears Kit again.

KIT (O.S.)

He's still insisting it wasn't him?

SALLY

So what?

Kit takes a moment to answer.

KIT (O.S.)

I'm getting dressed!