

"A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS"

SUMMARY

Sally's split-second decision has come as a shock to the whole of Summer Bay. Just as Cassie had decided not to travel, and make a new start with Henk, Sally received a phone call that changed everything. "A renewed purpose," she called it. Being offered the chance to administer at a last-chance camp for young people who have failed to improve in foster care and remand homes was a dream come true - a dream she never knew she held until it was presented to her. It is the night of Sally's departure, and as Miles waits outside in a rented van, Pippa is helping Sally load up the last of her luggage and boxes. After doing her best to ease Pippa's doubts, Sally says goodbye to her home of so many years.

INT. SUMMER BAY HOUSE-LOUNGE ROOM/KITCHEN AREA-NIGHT

The main room of the house is completely devoid of furniture, save one high-back chair in the middle of the floor, and one cardboard box sitting next to it. There is also one photo on the mantle. SALLY is looking out of the kitchen window. PIPPA enters from the hall.

PIPPA

Well, darling I think that's just about everything. Miles and little Pippa are waiting for us outside in the truck. It's time to make a move.

(SALLY is startled.)

SALLY

Oh, um, right, thank you Pippa. I think my mind just wandered.

PIPPA

Yes, well that's understandable. Big change.

SALLY

I know.

SALLY moves towards PIPPA at the centre of the room. She takes PIPPA's hands.

SALLY

Will you stop worrying, please. Things haven't felt, I don't know, this right in a long time. This is a good thing. I promise.

PIPPA

I know, sweetheart, but...

PIPPA takes her hands from SALLY and crosses to the high-back chair. She sits down and tries to hide her oncoming tears. SALLY moves towards PIPPA and kneels beside her.

SALLY

Pippa, this is the best thing that could have happened. I know you are going to worry, but this is finally my chance to find out who I am and what I'm capable of. It's a way to show you just how much I've learned and how much I've grown. I owe all of this to you.

PIPPA

Sally, at the camp your life will be so uncertain. These kids are tough. I don't know, maybe it's not just worry. Maybe I'm just having trouble getting used to the idea that my little girl really has grown up.

SALLY

Pippa, look at me. I can't remember the last time I felt this free, this alive. It's been so long since I've really had a sense of purpose, a direction in my life. Everything that's happened in the last few years - losing Flynn, Pippa's accident, finding Miles again - it was all so much to handle. I think I got a little lost. But now I've found something again, I can finally feel something inside of me, something I haven't felt in a long time.

(PIPPA smiles through her tears.)

PIPPA

Oh Sal...

SALLY

Pippa, these kids...they never had all the advantages I did. Ever since you first took me in all those years ago, I always knew I was loved. But, I don't think I really knew how lucky I was. Pippa, these kids never had that chance. They've never known what it felt like to have someone care...to have someone believe in them. They never had a Tom and Pippa.

PIPPA

My darling girl. I'm so very, very proud of you.

(SALLY laughs.)

SALLY

I'm pretty proud of me too. But I wouldn't be at this place in my life if it weren't for you. Thank you Pippa. Thank you for being my Mum.

(PIPPA joins SALLY on her knees on the floor. They embrace, both having dissolved into tears. PIPPA takes SALLY's face in her hands.)

PIPPA

I love you sweetheart. Come on, we really better make a move, it's getting late.

SALLY

I know. Can I just have a moment to...?

PIPPA

Of course you can sweetheart.

PIPPA rises to her feet, picks up the cardboard box next to the chair and exits through the side door. SALLY stands and puts her hands in her pockets. After several beats, SALLY moves to the mantle and takes down the last remaining photo. Clutching it to her chest she moves towards the exit. SALLY pauses for a moment in the doorway. After a beat, and without looking back, she switches out the light. SALLY exits. The camera pans back to reveal the moonlit room.

END