

BTTB Scriptwriting Competition 2008

Home and Away:
The House WILL Not Rise From The Ashes

by
Drew

Summary

After many attempts to finish her off, Johnny feels the only way to kill Sally is to sit and watch her die. Even if it means dying himself. After a confrontational scene, Johnny alights the Van Park House and it goes up in flames. After a few dramatic scenes, Sally is rescued, Johnny is killed and the Van Park House has burnt to the ground.

Two weeks have now passed. Sally is feeling all sorts of emotions, and is on the edge of a meltdown after recently being discharged from hospital and staying at Leah's. Knowing that her home of twenty years is now nothing but rubble and ash, she feels as if her last connection to the Bay has now been taken away from her. After speaking with Miles, Sally wants to make a fresh start some place else also using this time away from the bay to introduce Miles to her family.

Today, Alf and Pippa take Sally to the burnt down house to collect the belongings which survived the fire, where they have no idea about her decision to leave.

EXT. VAN PARK - DAY

SALLY, ALF, PIPPA

ALF, PIPPA and SALLY slowly walk through the caravan park as they head towards the remains of the Van Park House. SALLY appears to be exhausted and emotional as PIPPA guides her towards the house, arm in arm.

1. PIPPA

Thanks for letting us do this Alf.

2. ALF

Don't mention it Love, I'll leave you two to it.

3. PIPPA

Alf, don't be silly. It used to be your home too.

4. ALF

Yet the house is filled with your buried memories underneath the rubble, Pip. This is your time, and Sal's. Not mine.

PIPPA kisses ALF on the cheek as he stares towards SALLY.

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5. ALF

It will be OK Sal. Remember, it's
just a house.

SALLY takes a deep breath as she seems overwhelmed with emotion,
choking on her dry tears.

6. PIPPA

Come on Sweetie. Let's do this.

PIPPA continues to try her hardest not to show any emotion,
staying strong for SALLY as they finally reach the remains and
rubble of the Van Park House. Together, still arm in arm, they
enter a burnt out door frame of what used to be the back door,
leading towards the Van Park.

7. PIPPA

Twenty years in this house. Aw, how
fast time can fly. I just had a good
feeling about this place. The moment
Tom and I had walked into this room,
we just knew that this was home.

SALLY finally lets a smile crack as she walks into the foyer,
where she witnesses the burnt staircase that leads to nowhere as
the second story has fell through.

*****FLASHBACK TO PILOT EPISODE*****

INT. SUMMER BAY HOUSE - DAY

CARLY, LYNN, FRANK and SALLY enter a bedroom upstairs, leaning
up against the railings, SALLY seems overwhelmed by the large
bedroom.

SALLY

Wow!

SALLY then quickly exists the room into the hallway as ALF lets
out a pleasant chuckle, patting her on the head.

ALF

Good girl.

Continuing to explore the house, SALLY begins to play with a
light switch that doesn't alight. Embarrassed; ALF bends down to
her height and sidetracks her.

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ALF

Oh, I'll fix that. Why don't you have a look in that room and see if you see the pussy cat that sleeps in there.

SALLY walks into another bedroom, again, she's in awe.

SALLY

Wow!

SALLY walks out with a fast pace as she passes ALF, PIPPA and TOM.

ALF

Well, if the kids have got anything to do with it, I've got myself a sale.

*****RETURN TO PRESENT*****

EXT. VAN PARK - DAY

SALLY'S eyes begin to get all teary as the echo of ALF'S last flashback words continue to circle around in silence. Touching the crisp staircase, PIPPA can see it's too much emotion for SALLY.

1. PIPPA

Sweetie, why don't you sit down?

2. SALLY

I'm fine... I just need to go.

After hearing SALLY'S whisper, PIPPA seems confused.

3. PIPPA

Go? Go where?

4. SALLY

Somewhere. Anywhere. I just can't be here right now.

5. PIPPA

That's fine, I can take you back to Leah's, I'm sure we can come back another day and-

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6. SALLY

You are not listening to what I'm trying to say. I don't just want to leave here; I want to leave the Bay.

SALLY is filled with all sorts of emotions, as PIPPA seems wildly shocked.

7. PIPPA

I don't- I don't get it, why? Everything you love; is in this place.

8. SALLY

No. No it's not. Everything I've loved has now moved on from this place; my family, my friends.

9. PIPPA

You still have them here.

10. SALLY

It's not the same Pippa... I just feel like I can't be here at the moment. There's just too many memories. Ever since you left me here ten years ago, I felt like from those years on everything has been a test of strength in my life. After the fallout from my wedding with Kieran, I had never felt more scared and alone. You guys had all just taken off, leaving me to deal with the emotional fallout.

11. PIPPA

It was never like that Sal, and you know it.

12. SALLY

I know, but I pulled through it. I got through all the heartache and pain when I met Flynn... And then he was taken away from me.

13. PIPPA

Oh, Sal.

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14. SALLY

We had created a beautiful family together with Ric, Cassie and Pippa and now Cassie's left to go live with Henk and Ric-

15. PIPPA

You're only looking at all the negatives in this Sally, what about Miles? Your twin brother that went through thick and thin to find you-

16. SALLY

I've spoken to Miles about this already, and he said he'll support me with whatever I decide, that we can make a fresh start together.

17. PIPPA

But away from here? From your home?

18. SALLY

I just feel like that I've been cooped up in this town for the past twenty years. I want to experience life, see the world, visit my family.. Begin new memories some place else. I have been trying to stay strong, I really have, but since this house has been destroyed I feel as if it's a sign that it's time for me to go... This doesn't feel like the end of another drained chapter Pippa, this feels like the end of a book. I need to do this.

19. PIPPA

So that's it then. After twenty years you're just going to pack up your life and move out of Summer Bay?

SALLY turns away from PIPPA, staring down at a broken photo frame with a damaged picture inside it. It's visible to SALLY that it's the original photograph that was taken when BOBBY was fostered into the FLETCHER family. SALLY smiles, knowing she's made the right choice.