

FOUR NINETEEN

Episode One: Sleep And Dream Of Home

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET, MANCHESTER - DAY

OPENING CREDITS AND MUSIC OVER:

4 TODAY party balloons tied to a garden gate.

A flow of parents leave a children's party, small kids in tow, making their way to their cars.

The cars, clothes and haircuts tell us this isn't present day.

CAPTION: 2002

INT. CAR TRAVELLING - DAY

OWEN MILLAR (mid-30s) drives. His four-year-old son, SAM, chatters happily in the back, investigating his party bag.

INT. MILLAR HOUSE - DAY

In the **LOUNGE/DINING ROOM**, Owen half-watches TV as he supervises Sam eat his dinner.

BATHROOM

Owen baths Sam. They play with the bubble bath, smearing foam beards on each others faces. Sam laughs.

SAM'S BEDROOM

The blinds are drawn. Owen reads Sam a storybook by the glow of the night-light.

LOUNGE/DINING ROOM - DUSK

Owen stands looking through the patio doors at the garden, a beer in his hand. It's summer and the evenings are long.

Owen turns at a noise.

His wife, SARA (mid-30s) is letting herself in through the front door, paperwork under her arm.

She kisses him good evening.

MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sara takes her make-up off at the dressing table.

Owen reads a colour supplement in bed - the front cover is a picture of the twin towers, the strap line: ONE YEAR ON.

OPENING CREDITS AND MUSIC END.

CUT TO:

Silence.

Owen and Sara asleep in bed, light seeps in through the partially open door.

The DIGITAL CLOCK on Owen's bedside table reads 11:47.

CUT TO:

Owen adjusts his pillow and turns over, half-asleep.

The clock reads 01:12.

CUT TO:

Sara gets out of bed and pads out of the room.

She crosses the **LANDING**, a night-light casts a low light.

A floorboard CREAKS softly as she heads to the **BATHROOM**.

She sits on the toilet in the dark, peeing.

She traipses back across the **LANDING**, the floorboard CREAKS.

She pauses to look through the open door of **SAM'S BEDROOM** -

Sam is spread-eagle in bed, sleeping the way only little kids can.

Sara heads back into the **MASTER BEDROOM**, pulls the door nearly closed behind her and lit by the sliver of light from the landing, climbs back into bed.

02:51.

CUT TO:

Owen and Sara sleep.

The clock reads 03:27.

CUT TO:

Owen shifts. He murmurs and pushes the duvet down a little.

04:05.

CUT TO:

Sara turns over.

04:17.

CUT TO:

The sliver of light visible through the partially open door.

04:18.

The sliver of light is **BLOCKED** - just for a second, then back like nothing happened.

CREAK.

Owen stirs. He raises his head, looks at the clock.

04:18 changes to 04:19.

A small **MOAN** from Sam's room. The rustle of a duvet.

Owen levers himself out of bed.

Half-asleep, he shuffles towards the door.

OWEN

It's all right, I'm coming.

He crosses the **LANDING**. CREAK. He yawns.

OWEN

You need a wee-wee?

He steps into **SAM'S BEDROOM** and GETS AN ADRENALINE JOLT LIKE A BRICK IN THE FACE.

TWO FIGURES stand over Sam's bed. One **LIFTING** the still-sleeping child.

Owen's face floods with dread.

OWEN

SAM!