

BOXES AND BLANKETS

Written by

Tom Fry

Email: [tomfry206@gmail.com](mailto:tomfry206@gmail.com)  
Phone: +44 7961 508662  
© Tom Fry, November 2021

1

OVER BLACK

1

LILY (O.S.)  
... and then I'll stick a sail on  
the roof and we'll sail away! Ay,  
how's about that, captain Mia?

2

EXT. FOREST - DAY

2

LILY smiles a gnarled yet childish grin. Half blood-thirsty pirate, half confident 8-year-old girl, she is wholly joyous. She wears a pirate hat and an eye-patch.

MIA (O.S.)  
Arghhhhhh! Mighty fine!

MIA, a girl of a similar age, swings her fake hook and giggles as she precariously balances on a log.

Lily smiles. She turns to a row of teddies sat nearby and twirls her plastic cutlass towards them.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Ooo! How would a spaceman do it?!

A dolly shot as Lily moves across the lush grass towards a small cardboard box. She leans down to rummage. After a moment, she turns back to Mia, an oversized PAN sat atop her head.

She raises two fingers to the gigantic pan.

LILY  
Come in space command. Come in.

Mia takes a seat in front of the teddies and raises a hand to her ear.

MIA  
Loud and clear spaceman! You are  
cleared for take-off!

Lily gazes upon a large tree. She moves for it.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Go go go!

LILY  
We have lift-off!

Lily starts to climb, imitating a rocket-ship blasting off.

Mia slides on a pair of sunglasses as she gazes up.

LILY (CONT'D)  
Dad would say "What are you doing?"  
And I'd say...

Close-up as her foot slips, yet finds its grip once again.

LILY (CONT'D)  
We're leaving...

Mia stands.

MIA  
... but not moving!

Lily leans her body against the trunk of the tree. Her feet rest on the branch. She lifts his arms up and out.

LILY  
We're taking this house to the moon!

KNOCK KNOCK. The sound rings out through the forest. Lily loses balance and tumbles!

MIA  
Lily!

Mia rushes over. She leans down --

Lily shoots up! A cheek to cheek grin across her face, she looks to Mia.

LILY  
Made you look!

She giggles and pushes her back down.

3 EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

3

Wide shot as Lily and Mia approach a wholly incongruous, make-shift fort.

Mia goes to turn and walk away --

Close-up as Lily grabs her hand.

LILY  
I'll be back soon.

She lifts her hand to the pan.

LILY (CONT'D)  
No man left behind.

She lowers herself onto all fours and proceeds through the gap in the middle.

4 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

4

Lily emerges into a bedroom lit by warm fairy-lights.

A wide on moving boxes all around. Lily disregards them, her attention on the centre of the room where a series of old boxes and worn down blankets hold together an aged, makeshift fort. Her fort.

The fort sits between two beds. A yellow bed on the left, and a green bed on the right.

Lily's attention turns to the yellow bed. Her smile fades.

A KNOCK from outside the door. MARIA (37, amiable) pokes her head in.

MARIA  
Dinner sweetheart.

Lily reluctantly leaves the room.

5 INT. DINNER TABLE - EVENING

5

Spacious wide shot around a silent dinner table. Lily pokes at her food. Maria looks on, attentive. DAVID (42, disheveled) has his full attention on his laptop.

Maria lowers her fork as she rests the prongs on the table. Slowly, she 'walks' it towards Lily's plate --

She snatches a fishfinger!

She smiles. Lily doesn't.

Maria turns her attention to David. Kicks his leg under the table.

He looks up for the first time. Comprehends the awkward scene around him. He looks to Maria. What does she want?

He clears his throat.

DAVID  
Lily. Can you take that pan off  
your head please.

Lily looks up. She slowly removes the pan.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Have you finished packing this evening?

LILY  
Not yet.

David smiles at Maria. Nailed it.

She looks away and rests her head in her hands.

David turns his attention back to his laptop.

DAVID  
Oh and while I remember, you and Mum are going to the new house tomorrow night so I can finish up here. So we'll need the last of your stuff packed --

LILY  
-- tomorrow?

A beat.

DAVID  
Yeah, tomorrow. So we'll need the tent down please.

No response. David looks towards her.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Okay?

LILY  
I don't want to go.

David looks back at his laptop. Maria looks to Lily.

DAVID  
Well you have to go. You should be excited to get away from here. New adventures --

MARIA  
-- David.

LILY  
I don't want to go.

MARIA  
Come on Lily. We can pack together -  
-

Lily's chair SCRAPES as she turns and bolts out of the room.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Lily!

DAVID

Oh leave her Maria she'll be fine.  
It'll do her the world of good to  
get out of here after --

He ponders the two empty chairs across from him. Snaps out of it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(to lily)

Finish packing before play!

Astonished, Maria shakes her head and follows after Lily.

6

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

6

Lily rushes through the hallway and turns to leap up the stairs --

Her gaze settles on a set of KEYS dangling beside her. The new house keys.

For just a brief moment she considers it.

She snatches them off the hook.

MARIA (O.S.)

Lily?

Startled, Lily turns to face her.

She smiles. Lowers herself down to Lily's eye-level.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You know Dad doesn't mean it. He's  
just... busy at the moment.

Lily looks away.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You should talk to me. I know this  
move is a big deal. Do you want to  
talk? I can help you pack...

No response.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
 Well I'm here sweetie... love you  
 lots like jelly-tots, okay?

She leans forward and wraps Lily in a tight bear-hug. She doesn't hug back.

One continuous shot as Maria releases Lily and she moves up the stairs, down the hallway into the

6C

BEDROOM

6C

Where she comes to a stop at the centre of the room. Lily looks at the set of keys in her hand with a smile.

She looks to the fort. Looks to the moving boxes.

A beat, before she marches towards the boxes.

She lifts a bundle of folded clothes from the moving box...

... before we see a t-shirt land on top of the fort. A pair of jeans hit the wall. A rogue shoe knocking over the pencil pots on Lily's desk.

Stood proud amongst the chaos, Lily wraps a blanket around her as a cape.

She makes her way towards the fort. She opens the flap and crawls inside.

7

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

7

Lily crawls out beneath a deep blue sky.

LILY  
 Mia!

She bobs and weaves in-between trees through the brush into a large clearing.

She turns a corner --

Mia leaps out from behind a tree!

MIA  
 Boo! Got you back --

Lily latches onto her in a tight hug.

LILY  
 Mia! Guess who's staying!

MIA  
What?! How?

Lily squeezes her tight. Mia smiles.

8 EXT. FOREST - LATER

8

Mia stands, mid-shot, a red flag in her hand.

In front of her, a row of three cardboard boxes with wheels drawn on either side is revealed in a dolly shot, two of which contain teddy-bears, the last of which contains Lily.

MIA  
Three...

LILY  
Two...

She adjusts her goggles.

MIA  
One...

Lily pierces the new house keys into the box and twists them.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Race!

Mia casts the flag aside, pulling down her own goggles as she leaps into the back of Lily's box.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Look out!

They both duck down simultaneously.

LILY  
Dinosaurs on the --

MIA  
-- left!

The box shifts as they both lean right.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Aliens on the --

LILY  
-- right!

The box shifts left.

DAVID (V.O.)  
 Maria where are the keys? They're  
 not in the office... can you check  
 the hall again?

Mia looks down at the keys wedged into the box.

MIA  
 Lily --

LILY  
 -- I can see the finish line --

MIA  
 -- where did you get those?

Lily turns to face her. Mia eyes her, confused. Bewildered.

Lily backs away.

DAD (V.O.)  
 Lily!

9 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

9

Lily pokes her head out of the fort. David gawps at the  
 chaotic room.

He rubs his hand across his forehead.

DAVID  
 What do you have to say for  
 yourself? Didn't I tell you take  
 this down?

Lily doesn't move.

Without warning, he strides forward and begins to pull the  
 blankets down.

LILY  
 No!

Desperate, Lily latches onto his arm.

He stops.

10 INT. BEDROOM - LATER

10

David places a set of folded clothes into the moving box.  
 Lily lays in bed, transfixed on the fort as Maria sits by her  
 bedside.

DAVID  
(to himself)  
Everything I do... getting us out  
of this house... some gratitude  
would be nice...

MARIA  
David.

He quiets. Maria turns to Lily.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
You want to sleep in with us  
tonight?

Lily turns away. Maria rests a hand on her arm, standing as  
she does.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
You know we're just across the  
hall. Goodnight sweetie.

She takes her leave. David stands, moving towards the door --

He stops beside the bed. Looks at Lily. Thinks twice about  
saying something.

He moves to the doorway and flicks off the light switch. In  
the safety of darkness, he glances towards Mia's side of the  
room.

DAD  
Try and get some sleep, okay? Big  
day tomorrow.

He shuts the door.

Lily turns to face it, watching the shadows underneath.

DAVID (V.O.)  
The sooner we get her out of this  
place the better. It's not healthy  
the amount of time she spends in  
there Maria.

MARIA (V.O.)  
Oh leave her! She's only ten --

DAVID (V.O.)  
-- so stop treating her like she's  
four.

The first shadow retracts.

DAVID (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 (to himself)  
 It'll be a miracle if we ever get  
 out of this house.

The second shadow follows.

Lily stares at the ceiling, transfixed, placid --

One continuous shot as Lily slides out of bed. Slips over to the fort and opens the flap. Grabs the keys. Strides towards the open window at the back of the room and retracts her arm, ready to throw!

A beat.

Her arm relaxes. Lily lets go of the keys.

Stood deathly still, illuminated by the light of the moon, she begins to cry.

She turns and faces Mia's side of the room. She looks to the bed.

A moment, before Lily walks across the room and sits down on the yellow bed. She feels the sheets. Lifts the pillow and squeezes it tight.

After a moment, she lays down.

11 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

11

Lily wanders aimlessly through the dark forest. The trees lean in.

LILY  
 Mia!

Her pace quickened, she struggles through the brush.

LILY (CONT'D)  
 Mia!

The world spins around her as she stumbles aimlessly through an ocean of leaves.

LILY (CONT'D)  
 Please! Where are you?!

12 INT. FORT - NIGHT

12

Asleep on Mia's bed, Lily screams.

LILY

Mia!

After a brief beat the door flies open, as Maria bears down on her.

MARIA

Lily -- David! She's...

Maria shakes Lily awake. She curls up into a ball as Maria gently strokes her hair.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Shhh it's okay... you're okay...

After a moment, David enters the room. His eyes widen...

... as he spies the keys on the floor beside the tent.

He walks over and picks them up. Lifts them up for Maria to see. She disregards them.

Tentative, David looks down at Lily.

13

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

13

Lily looks straight through the television, her expression impossible to read.

Sat at the table behind her, Maria watches. She fights to keep her eyes open. After a brief moment, David enters from the kitchen holding a box. He lays it down on the table.

He crosses behind Maria and rests a hand on her chair.

DAVID

Go get some sleep.

MARIA

No I -- what if she falls asleep like that again? If I'm not here --

DAVID

-- then I will be --

MARIA

-- I'm not leaving her David.

A beat.

David interlocks his fingers with Maria's.

DAVID  
Come on. Come on.

Maria smiles weakly.

David kisses her on the head.

Maria makes her way towards the stairs.

David faces Lily, irresolute.

He grabs the box and places it on the floor. He lifts a photograph from the wall and leans down to place it in the box --

He stops.

In front of him, barely distinguishable handwriting is etched onto the wall.

INSERT TWO SETS OF MARKINGS

Drawn in increments up the wall with numbers beside them. Heights. Scribbled on the left and right side respectively, it reads 'Lily' and 'Mia'.

Mia's numbers end at 3 foot, 8 inches. Lily's numbers end immediately after.

He looks through the open doorway at Lily.

14 INT. HALLWAY - MORNING 14

Close on a crammed DVD shelf.

David approaches and scans the cases, before he pulls out a see-through, plastic DVD Case.

15 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 15

Squeezed into the corner of the sofa, buried beneath a myriad of blankets, Lily stares into space.

David appears at the other end of the sofa.

DAVID  
Hey.

Lily looks straight through him. David takes a seat. He bounces the DVD lightly in his hands.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I -- we --

The DVD stills. He looks to Lily.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I know that fort means a lot to  
you. This house. I'm sorry.

Lily sees him.

16 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MORNING

16

Maria leaves the bathroom. She notices that the light in  
Lily's room is on. She moves towards it.

DAVID (V.O.)  
I don't know how you're dealing  
with what's happened -- If I'm  
honest, I don't know how Mum's  
feeling either... But I know it  
hurts. It hurts me too, and that's  
okay.

Maria looks at Mia's bed. She hugs herself, fighting  
desperately to suppress her emotion --

DAVID (V.O.)(CONT'D)  
Mum doesn't mean to be all over  
you. I don't -- I didn't mean to  
take so long to see...

-- yet it escapes, regardless.

17 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

17

DAVID  
I'm sorry I took so long.

Lily reaches out her hand towards his wrist. David smiles.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I've got something I want to share  
with you. If you'll let me.

David moves off of the sofa towards the TV and takes a knee.

The DVD player SQUEAKS open as David inserts the disk. We  
move closer and closer to the TV screen, into

18 INT. HOME VIDEO - CONTINUOUS

18

A handheld camera records Lily and Mia building the box fort. Half of the shot is blocked out by David's thumb.

Lily turns and faces the camera.

LILY

Daddd your fingers on the thing!

David shifts his finger off of the lens.

DAVID

Smile for the camera!

Lily gives a cheesy grin. Mia is sat on her bed with Maria.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's looking good.

Lily fiddles with a blanket on top of the fort.

19 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

19

Lily's hand rests on top of that same blanket. The material furls as she squeezes --

David steps up behind her. Rack focus as he takes the other end of the blanket in his hands.

Maria appears in the doorway.

With a SWOOSH, they pull the blanket from the fort.

20 INT. HOME VIDEO - DAY

20

Mia approaches the fort with a yellow blanket. Lily watches from her bed.

DAVID

So where are you guys going to explore?

Lily faces him, puzzled.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's not just a fort. Could be a desert. Outer space --

LILY

-- outer space!

MIA  
What about a forest?

Lily smiles and jumps up from the bed.

LILY  
It's a forest.

21 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 21

Panning shot of Lily sat just outside the fort. She takes down the forest drawings and passes them to Mum.

David removes the sheets from Mia's bed.

DAVID (V.O.)  
All done! Good job guys.

22 INT. HOME VIDEO - DAY 22

Lily and Mia stand in front of the completed fort.

SMASH CUT TO:

23 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 23

The room is bare. Sheet-less beds, empty cupboards, and no fort.

Lily stands in the doorway. She looks down at the empty space where the fort used to be.

David leans down and rests a hand on her shoulder, closely followed by Maria.

MARIA  
You ready?

Lily smiles at David. David nods to Maria. They leave the room.

Lily turns back to take one last look.

Sat on her bed, Mia gazes out of the window. A single ray of sunshine warms her face.

24 INT. CAR - AFTERNOON 24

Sat in the back seat, Lily clutches a yellow blanket close to her chest.

Through the window, the outline of the house fades as the car pulls away.

25

EXT. NEW HOUSE - AFTERNOON

25

The car pulls into the driveway.

David steps out, and awes at something in the distance.

Lily's door opens --

David darts in front of her, blocking her view.

DAVID

Got something for you.

He smiles, placing his hands over Lily's eyes.

Together, they shuffle down the driveway and into the garden.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You ready?

Lily nods. David removes his hands.

A dense expanse of forest stretches out right behind the house.

A beat.

Enamoured, Lily reaches up and grabs her dad's hand, slinging the yellow blanket under her opposite arm.

They start off towards the forest.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**