**The Will**

**By Jimmy Traynor**

Original Screenplay by Jimmy Traynor 2000

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Characters

John Patterson ……………………

Shawn Patterson ……………………

Linda Patterson………………………

Sarah ……………………………….....

Mom - Ms. Josephine "Bea" Patterson …

Lawyer - Mr. Taylor ……………………

Nurse Monica……………………………

**Fade In**

Scene I - Interior

John is pacing in the hallway/living room. Linda is upstairs getting her things. She comes down and walks up to him.

Linda

You ok?

John turns to face her. And snaps at her.

John

What do you think?

Linda steps back and gives a caution scared look.

John see her face.

John

I'm Sorry.

Linda walks closer to him.

Linda

It's OK.

John

I can't believe it. It all happened

so suddenly.

Linda

I know. It's usually like that.

John

I should have visited her more.

Linda

Everyone goes through this…should of,

could of, would of thing. It's normal

for you to think that way.

John

I know these feelings are normal but it's

not normal to miss your own mother's

funeral! Hell, I wasn't even there when

she was sick.

Linda

Honey, calm down.

Linda takes a moment to hung him.

Linda

You have to know that she loved you and

*(Linda pulls back from the hug to look at him)*

she knew how hard you worked. You're

mother was proud of you. You know that.

John

(He takes a breath and thinks about it.)

Yeah… but I still have a right to feel bad.

John grabs his jacket and puts it on.

John

Let's go, I don't want to miss our flight.

*(John opens the door for her and follows her out with their bags.)*

**Fade Out.**

Scene II - Interior

John,Linda Sarah and Shawn, along with the lawyer, are sitting in the living room of

Shawn and John's mother's house. The lawyer is about to read the mother's will. An urn sits on the table with the mother's picture next to it and some flowers.

Fade In.

Lawyer

I would like to begin by saying how very sorry

I am for your loss. Losing someone is never easy

but it will get better. Now, I normally don't conduct

business outside of my office but since she was a

dear friend of mine I am making the exception, as

per her request.

Tom burst out in grief.

John

Oh my God!

Lawyer

Do you need a moment before I begin the reading?

John

No… It's just that…

Shawn

…it's hard to believe.

Sarah

We all feel that way.

Tiffany hugs up on Chris. Lawyer begins to stand.

Lawyer

Should I…

John

(cutting off Lawyer)

No! Please! Let's just get this over with.

Lawyer sits back down and takes a pause.

Lawyer

Now that the remains of our beloved Bea

rests in this beautiful urn, I will begin. I,

Beatrice Josephine Baker, being of sound mind

and body, would like to set the record straight.

To Tom, I never liked you.

John

Excuse me…What?

John is standing.

Lawyer

(to John)

Please let me finish.

Linda stands up to console John.

Linda

Honey…sit down please.

John

NO! You sit down. He has my full attention.

Continue!

Shawn

John. Mom was probably just upset because

you didn't call her that much.

John

What are you talking about?! I called! Ask

your girlfriend! Every time I called she said

mom wasn't home.

Linda

Well excuse me for trying to spare your feelings.

It was your mom who told me to say she wasn't home.

She just didn't want to talk to you.

John

Why wouldn't she want to talk to me?

Lawyer

I believe I can answer that. Please have a seat.

John calms down and sits down. Lawyer looks down at the paper and continues reading.

Lawyer

John, you are not my son.

John and Shawn jump up in shock.

John and Shawn

What?

Tom grabs the paper from the lawyer. Both Linda and Sarah are in shock. John is reading the will. John begins to cry.

Shawn

What does it say?

John

It says our father had an affair and my real

mother died giving birth to me. So mom…

or rather YOUR mom…raised me as her own

even though deep down she hated me because

I was a constant reminder to her of the betrayal

our father had committed.

John turns around and passes the paper to Shawn. Linda gets up to console John. Shawn looks at the paper then turns to Sarah. Sarah gets up to hug Shawn. The lawyer understandingly takes the paper back.

Lawyer

I know this is difficult to hear, but it's best to get

everything out now so that the healing process

can begin.

Everyone takes a seat and prepares to listen to the lawyer.

Lawyer

To Shawn, my real son, I leave my entire estate.

I will always love you my true son.

Linda is holding John tight.

Linda(whispering to John)

It's ok honey. It's ok.

John shoves her off of him.

John

(Loudly in her face)

How? How is it ok? That woman who raised

me for 29 years, who I thought is my mother,

and really isn't, hated me all my life. How is

that ok?

Lawyer

Not just you.

John

What?

Lawyer

There is a P.S. at the bottom.

Lawyer looks back down at the paper.

Lawyer

Tom, I hate your wife too.

John

(sarcastically)

Oh! OH! That makes it better.

Sarah

John. Your mother hated me too and I'm sure

Shawn will share the money with you.

John

I don't give a shit about the money!

Linda

Calm down honey.

John

Both of your parents loved you. \_ You don't know what I am going through so -BACK OFF!

Linda

Don't talk to me like that.

John

Under the circumstances, NO ONE is going

to tell me what to do right now.

Linda

I'm just trying to be there for you but…

John

But what? But what?! You don't want to see

me go off the deep end? Too late HONEY!

Linda

I think we need to leave.

John

You leave! I might be drop kicking fake

momma's urn out the window in a moment

along with Mr. Lawyer here if he starts reading

that damn will again.

Lawyer

Now John -

John

(pointing to the Lawyer)

Shut up!

Linda

Please, let's just…

John gives Linda a very mean look. Linda starts to tear up.

Linda

I love you and if you love me you'll come with me. This is to Much for anyone to hand in one day.

Linda turns to get her things.

Linda

Are you coming?

John

Does it look like I am going?

Linda runs out the house in tears. John is yelling at her as she runs out.

John

Go ahead! Rip out the last piece of my heart.

Sarah

Really smart. Push away the one person

who truly loves you.

Shawn

John, please… listen.

Sarah

We are still here for you.

Shawn

I love you. You ARE my brother

no matter what that says.

(Shawn points at the will)

Sarah

You are making a bad situation worse.

John angrily throws a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ releasing his anger. He collapses to the couch on his knees and begins to cry.

John

I don't know what to do?

Sarah

Leaving would be a good idea. I think you

need to be with your wife.

John

Shawn… I love you.

Shawn and John hug.

Shawn

I know… I love you too.

John

I have to go Shawn. I have to go.

Sarah

Shawn. Let him go. He needs to be with his wife.

John gets up and walks towards the front door. He grabs his coat and opens the front door. He turns to look at Shawn.

John

I'll call you later.

John goes out the door and closes it.

Shawn

Sarah?

Shawn and Sarah hug.

Sarah

It's ok baby.

Lawyer appears from behind Shawn and Sarah.

Lawyer

Let's go upstairs.

Fade out.

Scene III - Interior

Shawn, Sarah, and the Lawyer are standing in a hallway in front of a closed bedroom door.

Fade In.

Sarah

(to Shawn)

I know that was hard baby. Just one more

step for us.

Sarah

(to Lawyer)

Ready?

Lawyer

Yes.

Sarah

(to Lawyer)

Stay here for a minute.

Fade out.

Scene IV - Interior

Sarah and Shawn are in the mother's bedroom standing by her side. Mother is sleeping on her bed. The home nurse is waking her up to take her medication.

Fade In.

Nurse

Ok Ms. Bea, it's time to wake up and take your medicine.

Mother takes her medication.

Nurse

Great job. I'll be right back, ok?

Mom Bea

Shawn? Did you hear from John?

Sarah is standing behind Shawn then leans on him to show she is in control.

Sarah

No.

Mom Bea

Why doesn't he call? Doesn't he want to be

here with me?

Sarah

He doesn't like you.

Mom Bea

What?

Shawn

Sarah - OUT!

Sarah

She needs to know that he hates her and

hopes she dies soon.

Mom Bea

Shawn???

Shawn

Sarah!

Sarah

OK. OK. I'm sorry. You're such a great

son to protect your mom from an evil

person like Tom.

Sarah gives Shawn a cunning stare and then proceeds to leave the room.

Shawn

Mom. Please don't listen to her.

Mom Bea

Is it true Shawn? Does John really hate me?

Shawn

No. He loves you mom.

Mom Bea

Then why isn't he here?

Sarah's voice can be heard from a distance, as she shouts into the room.

Sarah

Yeah….Where's John?

Shawn is holding back tears and is frustrated.

Shawn

(angrily)

I don’t' know!

Mom Bea

I raised 2 great boys. One loves me and

one hates me for whatever reason, I don't know.

She coughs and grabs a tissue.

Mom Bea

When is my lawyer getting here?

Both Sarah and the Lawyer walk in.

Sarah

(happily and child like)

Look who came to see you?

Mom Bea

Mr. Taylor. I'm so glad you're here.

I need to change some things on my will.

Sarah

Shawn? I need your help.

She grabs Sarah' hand and tries to pull him away. Shawn is still holding mothers hand.

Mom Bea

Shawn… I'll see you in a bit.

Shawn

I love you mom.

Mom Bea

I know dear. I love you too.

Sarah pulls Shawn from his mother. The Lawyer smile as he closes the door.

Fade Out.

Scene V - Interior

Shawn and Sarah are in the living room standing next to the urn. The lawyer walks in.

Fade In.

Lawyer

It's done.

Sarah

So… she signed over everything to Shawn, right?

Lawyer

I convinced the old lady that it's wise to have

only one beneficiary.

Sarah

So even if Tom comes back later -

Lawyer

He gets nothing.

Sarah happily hugs the lawyer.

Lawyer

Good job young man.

Lawyer shakes Shawn' hand. Shawn does not look happy.

Sarah

Thank you. Thank you.

The lawyer leaves the house. Sarah kisses John.

Sarah

Now. When your mom finally passes,

hopefully in a couple of days, we can

sell this house and get a bigger one, and

we can do my dream wedding. Oh!

And we can buy matching silver cars.

And, and… I can get all new clothes to

fill up my new walk-in closet. No! A

closet that is it's own room. Yes, yes!

I can then take my girls on a shopping

Spree and do the spa thing…

Sarah looks over at Shawn who is still in disbelief as to what he has done. Sarah tries to pretend to be comforting.

Sarah

Baby… I know you're down right now but

I'll get you up later and make you feel all better.

This will be all worth that little secret of yours.

She gives him a big passionate kiss. Shawn is a bit unresponsive. Sarah pulls away and trots out of the living room.

Sarah

(in a singing chant)

I have plans to make. I have plans to make.

Sarah leaves with Shawn still reaching out for her as if she is his support and backbone. Shawn then falls back onto the couch rethinking all of the things he's done to his mother and to his brother. He's in disbelief.

Fade Out.

The end.

As Shawn is sitting on the couch in disbelief, the nurse sneaks down the steps and motions to him to come with her. Shawn (still looking sad) looks around to see if Sarah is gone. He then sneaks over towards the nurse smiling and chases her quietly up the steps.

Int: Outside Mom's bedroom door. Nurse Monica knocks softly on the door in a coded sound kinda way.

The door unlocks and they walk in to see mom putting on her wig and preparing to go out.

Shawn

You going some where?

Mom

Of course, John doesn't come to town everyday and I'm sure he won't be back this evening.

Nurse

Don't you think it's kinda risky?

Mom and Shawn (Laugh)

Shawn

No good con is any fun unless there's a lot to risk involved.

Shawn walks over and sits on the bed.

Shawn

But Mom...you are kinda of pushing it.

Shawn raises his finger to count off all the things mom is doing.

Shawn

Conning other con artist...

Faking your own death...

Having one of the bad guys or should I say girl live in the house.

Nurse (Jealous)

You like that one.

Shawn

Hey this is not my thing.

Nurse (sarcastically)

So having a built in seducer who always has to think she can control you by sex is a hard job for you?

Mom

OK. Enough! You are here to make her jealous

not be jealous

Nurse

(pauses for a moment then quickly sneaks in the sentence almost whisper like)

-plus you are getting half your moms life insurance.

Mom

Monica you said you were OK with this.

Shawn

(pointing to himself - speaking to mom)

She still wants the Shawnerator.

Nurse Monica

You wish.

Shawn

Hey I do! You know...when I'm with her, I think of you.

Shawn gets up and gets close to Nurse Monica.

Shawn

I never got over you and I never will.

Nurse Monica thinks about it for a second - almost buying what Shawn said, then quickly dismisses it.

Nurse

You really think that was going to work?

Shawn

Had to try. Because if she's ...

Shawn quickly looks at Mom then back to Nurse Monica

Shawn

...going out for an hour, it means we are stuck together,

locked in this room until she gets back and I would rather be doing something---

Shawn pulling the sleazes back

Shawn

--- than fighting with you.

Mom

You guys work it out. I'll be back later.

Mom leaves fade out

Quick fade into Mom walking up to an outside table at a restaurant with a man with a hat sitting at the table. Man is looking down. Close up on hat as man slowly raises his head to reveal his face.

John

Hi Mom!

Fade Out

The end.