

(LONDON SCREENWRITING FESTIVAL - 50 KISSES COMPETITION)

# NO KISS BEFORE DYING

BY

Eddie Coleman

## Cast

Gwen, 82

Anna, 37

Harry, 41

## Non-speaking roles

Young Harry, 6

Teenage Harry, 14

Young Anna, 8

Teenage Anna, 15

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**FADE IN:**

**INT. HOSPITAL WARD. LATE AFTERNOON.**

**Gwen**, 82, is in a hospital bed.

Sitting beside her, clutching her boney hand is her daughter **Anna**, 37.

Standing a couple of feet from the bed is **Harry**, 41. He hardly moves, doesn't want to get close.

ANNA takes out a card from her bag and shows it to Gwen.

ANNA

It's Valentine's day mum. You've got a card. I wonder who sent it?

No response from Gwen. Anna places the unopened card on the bed then looks up at Harry.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It was all the gift shop had left.  
(Beat) Just one kiss for mum ,Harry,  
before she goes.

HARRY

I can't, sis.

He looks away and as he does, we jump straight into Harry's mind and the following images appear:

*Young Harry, 6, being scolded by Gwen.*

*Teenage Harry, 14, being repeatedly beaten by Gwen.*

*Harry, late 30's. For this last image we hear Gwen:*

GWEN

I said you'd never amount to much,  
didn't I? And I was right. Harry, you  
take after your lazy, good for nothing  
bastard of a father! You only come to  
see me when you want any money or a  
place to hide! Well not  
anymore.(screams) Get out! Get out of my  
house and never come back!

Jump back to the present day. Harry turns back to Anna.

ANNA

One kiss. To show you've forgiven her.

Harry shakes his head, zips up his jacket and walks out of the room. Anna wants to call after him but she knows he's gone for good.

She turns to Gwen, picks up the card and tries not to cry.

At this moment, we jump straight into Anna's mind and the following images appear:

*Young Anna, 8, being praised by Gwen.*

*Teenage Anna, 15, being repeatedly spoilt by Gwen.*

*Anna, early 30's. For this last image we hear Gwen.*

**GWEN**

I knew you'd always make something of your life, Anna. And I was right. I'm so proud of you. So very, very proud of you. *(smiles)* Now come in the house and see the bright new dress mummy's bought you.

Jump back to the present day. Anna stands up and places the unopened valentine's card on the table by Gwen. She then leans over Gwen but cannot bring herself to kiss her.

**ANNA**

I'm sorry but you brought this on yourself, mum. *(Beat)* Just go, go now...for all our sakes.

Anna sighs, straightens up and exits.

After Anna has left, we jump straight into Gwen's mind and the following image appears:

*Gwen, 82, sitting up in her hospital bed admiring her Valentine's card. Harry and Anna take it in turns to kiss Gwen on the cheek. They are smiling and happy. Gwen smiles at them both.*

Jump back to the present day.

And a smile forms on a dying woman's lips.

**End**