

Forever

By

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INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

April, 15, slim and pretty, is in her room practicing her dancing.

APRIL(V.O.)

I could already see myself in front of a HUGE audience. My mom, dad, and sister with proud faces looking at me from the front row. I'm sure i got accepted to The School of American Ballet.

We PAN to explore the small room: Two pictures on the nightstand, April laughing with dad, Martin (38), and a picture of her family with tremendous joy at the park.

WE continue to PAN the room: Only two pieces of furniture. A teddy bear is sitting on a shelf. CLOSE-UP of card attached to teddy bear.

MARTIN(V.O.)

Happy Birthday April, you know i love you very much.  
Love , Dad.

April walks over to her bed and lies down as she catches a glimpse of her teddy bear out of the corner of her eye.

APRIL

I miss you dad, i wish you were still with us.

April then hears her mom calling her.

~~April~~ REBECCA(V.O.)  
~~April~~ can you come over here please?

APRIL

I'll be right there!

INT. REBECCA AND ROSALINDA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

April's mom, Rebecca(37) is sitting next to April's sister, Rosalinda (7), small and adorable, who is lying down on her bed, with the sheets uncovered.

REBECCA

Could you go get me an ice pack? Your sister has a high fever. I think she might have more than just a flu.

APRIL

Do you think so?

REBECCA

Im not exactly sure, but Rosalinda's been losing a lot of weight, she has fevers every other night, and she's been telling me that she is really tired and that her bones ache sometimes.

APRIL

I hope its nothing serious.

April walks out and comes back a minute later with the ice pack.

REBECCA

I'm going to take Rosalinda to the doctor tommorrow because she's getting worse.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR MARQUEZ'S OFFICE - MORNING

Rebecca is sittting in a chair in Dr. Marquez's office, Rosalinda sitting by her side.

REBECCA

Well, do you know what's wrong with Rosalinda?

DR. MARQUEZ

(pauses)

I'm sorry to tell you this but Rosalinda was diagnosed with leukemia.

Rebecca's face expression falls as tears start rolling down her cheeks.

REBECCA

(Desperately)

NO! This can't be happening, please tell me this isn't true!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Rebecca is sitting on the couch with a blank expression on her face. She waits for April to arrive from her dance class.

*April comes in through the front door.*

APRIL

Hi mom!

REBECCA

Hi honey, sit down we need to talk.

April then notices her mother's dissapointed tone and she sees her sad face expression.

APRIL

Mom, what's wrong?

(pause)

REBECCA

I went to the doctor with Rosalinda and they did lots of tests.

(softly)

Dr. Marquez diagnosed her with leukemia.

Tears start to roll down April's eyes. Rebecca hugs her and they stay there, hugging, crying and consoling each other.

APRIL

Why is this happening to her? She's so young and innocent. It's not fair.

REBECCA

I don't know sweetheart. Only God know why he's doing this.

APRIL

Where's Rosalinda right now?

REBECCA

She's in the hospital. The doctors said it was better if she stayed there from now on.

APRIL

Can I go see her today?

REBECCA

Sure we can go later.

INT. ROSALINDA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

April and Rebecca walk in. Rosalinda is sleeping on the hospital bed.

APRIL

*(turns to face Rebecca)*

Can you leave me alone for a while with Rosalinda, please?

REBECCA

Okay, i'll be outside if you need anything.

*Rebecca exits the room.*

April walks towards Rosalinda's bed.

APRIL

(softly)

Rosalinda please get better. I don't want to loose you too. Do it for me and mom. We love you very much.

You're a very energetic girl and i know you can get through this.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

(Months later) Rebecca is sitting <sup>at</sup> ~~on~~ the table with electric, water, and gas bills all scattered over the table. She has a calculator, a pencil, and a checkbook next to her. A confused and angry look on her face. April enters the room.

APRIL

Hi mom what are u doing?

REBECCA

I'm just looking over my bills. Right now we're on a tight budget. Rosalinda's chemotherapy is expensive but its worth it as long as it helps her.

The phone RINGS. April goes to get it.

APRIL

Yes, this is she.

*She listens to phone call.*

Okay, thank you.

REBECCA

Who was that?

APRIL

It was the director of The School of American Ballet. I wasn't accepted.

(dissapointed)

Don't worry about our money mom, i'm going to look for a job and i'll help pay for Rosalinda's expenses.

REBECCA

Don't think about that, those are my worries.

~~INT.~~  
EXT.

SIDE WALK - DAY

A cell phone RINGS.

REBECCA

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DR. MARQUEZ'S OFFICE - EVENING

Dr. MARQUEZ

Hi, this is Dr. Marquez. Is this Rosalinda's mom?

REBECCA

Yes. Hi Dr. Marquez. Is there anything wrong with Rosalinda?

DR. MARQUEZ

I'm afraid there is. It seems the chemotherapy has not given us the results we wanted. She is skinnier and more tired than ever. We would like for you and April to come pay her a visit tonight if it's possible.

REBECCA

(sadly)

Are there still hopes for Rosalinda to get better?

DR. MARQUEZ

Sincerely, there is a one out of a hundred chance for her to get better.

Rebecca then hangs up the phone, her eyes are watery.

INT. ROSALINDA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Rebecca and April are knelt beside Rosalinda, who is lying motionless on the hospital bed.

REBECCA

(crying)

I remember the first time i had you in my arms you were so small. You always made me and your dad very happy. I remember your first birthday and your first day of preschool. I will always take those memories with me wherever i go. You're very special to all of us, sweetie.

(looks up)

Please God don't take her away from us.

APRIL

(Puts the teddy bear her dad had given  
to her next to Rosalinda; crying)

Please don't leave me alone. I always enjoyed your  
company and you were like my best friend. Don't ever  
forget that i love you and that i'll never leave you  
alone. I'll always be there FOREVER.

Rosalinda

(whispers)

I love both of you too. I'm really tired.

Rebecca and April cry for a moment. Then, one of the  
machines next to Rosalinda BEEPS, and they know she is gone  
forever. All the doctors and nurses come in running and ask  
them to get out.

INT. APRIL'S RECITAL - MORNING

(One year later) April is up on stage getting ready to dance  
and as she speaks she looks over to Rebecca.

APRIL

(into microphone)

I would like to dedicate this dance to my dad and my  
sister who will both be in my heart FOREVER.