

A Tale From The End

by

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SCENE 1 - THE BEGINNING

A young GIRL sits in a hospital bed. She is in the center. The focal point. The most important. We sit and watch her cough multiple times. It takes a while. It should feel like sitting there doing nothing is a mistake. Then she smiles.

The DOCTOR arrives and helps her out of bed and has her stand on scale. The DOCTOR then measures her height.

The GIRL is thinking of something.

The DOCTOR has her sit back on the bed. The GIRL says "ahhh" as the DOCTOR checks her throat. The GIRL then lays back down in bed.

The DOCTOR grabs a chair and sits next to the bed.

DOCTOR
Good morning.

GIRL
Just morning.

DOCTOR
"Just" morning?

GIRL
Yeah. Just morning. Nothing has happened yet.

DOCTOR
I see.

GIRL
Is he coming today?

DOCTOR
I'm not sure. I would assume so.

GIRL
When he does... Then it will be a good morning.

DOCTOR
Why is that?

GIRL
He's the only one who visits.

What about me? DOCTOR

You have to. GIRL

I think you mean get to. DOCTOR

Am I getting better? GIRL

No. DOCTOR

I didn't think so. How long until I have to go?
(The DOCTOR is silent.)
 I see. GIRL

I'll um... I'll be back. If you want I can ask one of
 the nurses to sneak an extra chocolate pudding for
 lunch. DOCTOR

Sure. GIRL

SCENE 2 - JASON

A young man sits outside the girls room. As the doctor approaches him he looks up at him.

How is she doing? JASON

She um... She was asking for you. DOCTOR

The DOCTOR leaves. JASON takes a few moments to collect himself. He then steps into he room. He almost seems like a different person. He has a huge smile on his face.

Hello? Is anyone home? JASON

The GIRL's face shines with happiness at the sound of his voice.

Jason! GIRL

The GIRL gets up from the bed and runs to him. Giving him a hug.

JASON

Woah! Hey, be careful. It's nice to see you too.

GIRL

Where were you yesterday?

JASON

Sorry about that. Yesterday got a little busy for me.

GIRL

I was worried something happened.

JASON

Like what?

Her hug becomes tighter. She then releases and makes her way back to her bed. She looks away from Jason out a window.

GIRL

Nothing. Anyway, the doctor said he would get on eof the nurses to give me an extra chocolate pudding today. So you'll get one too.

JASON

That's pretty nice of him.

GIRL

Yeah. I think he only said that because I'm going to die soon.

JASON's character breaks for a moment but then returns. There is small moment of silence.

JASON

Hey! You know what? I got you something.

GIRL

You did?

JASON

Yep, right here.

He holds out a bag. She takes it and opens it. She pulls out a pair of water guns.

GIRL

What are these for?

JASON
They're water guns.

GIRL
But you can't use these in here.

JASON
Then how about we go outside and test them out?

Jason - by The Midnight (feat. Nikki Flores) begins to play.

GIRL
Really? Outside?!

JASON
Yep.

GIRL
We're going outside!

JASON
Come on, let's go!

He grabs her by the hand and helps her down from the bed. Together they leave the room. As they leave they almost run into a nurse carrying a lunch tray which includes two chocolate puddings

NURSE
Hey! It's time for... Lunch. Oh well. A kid has to play outside sometimes.

She sets the tray down on the nightstand. She then fixes up the girl's bed. Under the pillow is a piece of paper. The nurse notices it and begins to read it. There is a moment of shock on her face and she runs out of the room.

SCENE 3 - THE WATERGUN FIGHT

Jason and the girl run onstage. Jason silently explains to her how the watergun works. He pulls the trigger and water squirts out. He then hands her the gun and she pulls the trigger. After she successfully shoots the gun he motions her to turn around and they stand back to

back, each holding a gun. He then silently counts to ten as they each take steps forward. After ten steps they both turn around and begin shooting at each other. They both shoot for a while then the sound of their laughter can be heard as the music fades. As they both laugh the girl continues to shoot Jason with the water gun. Then she begins to cough. Her cough becomes more and more violent.

JASON

Hey- hey are you okay?

(The GIRL starts gasping for air)

Nurse... Nurse! She needs help!

He picks her up and holds her in his arms as he rushes her offstage.

SCENE 4 - DOES SHE KNOW?

We are back in the Girls room. JASON and the NURSE rush into the room. JASON sets her on the bed.

NURSE

Don't worry sweetie the doctor is going to be here very soon-

DOCTOR

I'm already here.

The doctor and two other assistants walk into the room. The doctor places a stethoscope on the girls chest.

JASON

What happening? Is she okay?

(Nobody answers.)

Is she going to be okay?

(Nobody answers again.)

Is she going to be okay?!

DOCTOR

Nurse! Get him out of here!

The NURSE starts pushing JASON out of the room.

JASON
Is she going to be okay?

NURSE
Sir, I need you to step out for a moment.

JASON
What is going on?!

NURSE
Jason please.

JASON
Tell me!

DOCTOR
Get out of her before you kill her!

Jason is taken aback. The NURSE finally pushes him out of the room. Closing the door behind her. He kicks a chair in frustration.

JASON
Damn it!

NURSE
Jason please calm down. I know this is stressful.

JASON paces around the waiting area.

JASON
Is there anyway I can help?

NURSE
All you can do now is pray for her.

JASON
There has to be something more! It... It can't end this way.

NURSE
Jason please, calm down-

JASON
I know!

The door to her room opens and the DOCTOR walks through. JASON tries to look into her room. We hear the GIRL coughing and wheezing. The DOCTOR closes the door and places a hand on Jason's chest, pushing him back. JASON falls to the floor.

DOCTOR
What happened?!

NURSE
Doctor!

JASON
We were just playing outside with the water guns and she she-

DOCTOR
What the hell were you thinking? You know she's sick!

JASON stands up.

JASON
I'm trying to give her a life!

DOCTOR
What?! A life of pain and suffering?!

JASON
A life beyond this! A life without the fluorescent lights, without the IV's, without the constant reminder that she's going to die!

DOCTOR
We're all going to be dead soon! In case you forgot the world is ending in 2 days or do you not see the giant meteor in the sky?

JASON
Shut up!

DOCTOR
Don't think I don't know what's going on with you.

JASON
What are you talking about?

DOCTOR
I've seen men like you. Men who think one last good deed will set them right. Their key to heaven as I call it. Well, if that's all you want from her then you can leave.

JASON
It's not like that-

DOCTOR
Oh really? Does she know?
(*JASON is silent.*)
Does she know?

Doctor-

NURSE

DOCTOR

I want to know! Does she now who you are?!

There is silence

JASON

No.

The DOCTOR takes a deep breath. He is victorious.

DOCTOR

If you really care about her you would leave her alone. She's lucky. We're giving her the chance to leave this world peacefully. It will be a painless death. Like going to sleep. And even if the world wasn't ending she would still die due to her illness.

The DOCTOR leaves. It is just the NURSE and JASON now. The two assistants come out and speak to the nurse. JASON sits on the chair.

ASSISTANT

She's stable but I'm not sure how much longer she's going to be able to go. There's two days before the meteor hits. By law all children must be administered the drug the day before. But we'll have to make an exception now because of today. It will have to happen the day of.

NURSE

I'll make sure she gets some food in her system.
(The assistants nod and leave. The NURSE turns to Jason.)

She's going to be okay... For now. But after what happened today we need to wait until the day of the end to give her the drug. She's already in pain because of her condition. The law put in place so the children wouldn't have to... Have to go through the end. By tomorrow she will be the last child in the hospital and maybe the world. Then you know what comes the day after...

JASON

The end of the world.

JASON stares at the ground. The NURSE takes a piece of paper out of her pocket and gives it to him

NURSE

She wrote this. For him. Give it a read and if you feel like you can... Come back. She'll be waiting.

The NURSE leaves. JASON unfolds the paper and begins to read the note to him.

SCENE 5 - GOODBYE

We are in the Girls room. She is sitting in her bed. There is no smile on her face. She stares at us. Then there is a knock on the door. JASON enters. She gives a big smile like she always does. He returns a quick smile but his character quickly fades.

GIRL

Hi Jason!

She moves to get up but is pulled back by the IV's attached to her. She remain sin the bed. JASON sits down next to her bed.

What's wrong?

JASON

I wanted to ask you something.

GIRL

Sure. What is it?

JASON

Do you... The ugy... When you found out about your parents, were you upset?

She understands the situation and her smile fades.

GIRL

Yes.

JASON

And the... Driver of the car. The one that-

GIRL

The drunk driver that killed my parents.

JASON

Do you hate him?

GIRL

I don't even know who he was. I guess I did... At first. I wrote him a letter... Telling him what he did. I wanted to make sure he knew that I would be alone in the end because of him.

(There is silence. JASON is trying to keep it together.)

But then you came along. You were my friend when I needed it most and now because of you I won't be alone.

She smiles at him. He looks up at her and takes the letter she wrote from his pocket. He unfolds it and gives it to her. She looks at it.

GIRL

This is my letter.

JASON

I gave it to him.

GIRL

Who?

(JASON can't look at her. There is a pause.)

Who Jason?

With all his strength he JASON manages to look at her. She realizes who he really is. There is no smile on her face. After a while JASON gets up to leave.

GIRL

They said I'm the last one.

(JASON stops)

Thank you.

JASON

For what?

GIRL

For being my last friend.

The DOCTOR walks into the room.

DOCTOR

Jason... Just leaving? Good. We'll get started as soon as you leave. We need to do this quickly. The meteor is going to hit soon.

JASON reaches for the door handle and opens it. He takes one last look

behind him at the girl. She smiles at him.

JASON turns and walks up to the girl and begins unhooking her from the IV's.

DOCTOR

Jason! What the hell are you doing?
(*JASON continues to free her*)

Jason!

The DOCTOR grabs onto Jason and the two struggle. JASON manages to throw the Doctor to the ground. Before he can get up JASON reaches his hand out to the girl.

JASON

Let's go!

GIRL

Where?

JASON

To the end... Together.

The GIRL takes his hand. JASON grabs the bag on her nightstand and together they run.

DOCTOR

Jason!

SCENE 6 - THE END

People walk onstage. There are many looking up at the sky. They are waiting. JASON and the GIRL push through them. They stop and sit to catch their breath. The GIRL coughs a little. JASON helps her. They both look at each other. Then they look at the sky.

GIRL

There it is.

JASON

There it is.

They both stare at the sky together. Some of the people begin to cry.

Then the GIRL begins to cry. JASON reaches into the bag and brings out the two water guns. He hands her one. She looks at the gun and gives a weak smile. She shoots him with it. He quickly stands up and shoots her back. She laughs and stands up to join him. Together they play as the lights slowly fade to black.

Their laughter is the last sound in the world.