

SKIP

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. RESIDENCE - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

A car sits in the driveway, motor running. JANE, 27, sits behind the wheel.

ANNA, late 50s, stands by the car and watches her granddaughter SOPHIE, 5, adorably precocious, skip rope in the front yard.

JANE

Sorry for the last minute drop off, mom. Work is a pain at the moment.

ANNA

Was gonna visit mom this morning. She's not doing so well, you know.

JANE

So take her with you. God knows that place could use a little bit of joy.

(as she pulls away)

Bye, Sophie! See you soon!

Sophie hardly notices as Jane speeds away. Continues with her jumping. As she does, she sings:

SOPHIE

Cinderella dressed in yella,
Went downstairs to kiss a fella...

ANNA

Wait a sec, I know this...

SOPHIE

Made a mistake and kissed a snake.
How many doctors did it take
One, two, three, four, five...

ANNA

I know that song. I used to sing it as a little girl as well.

SOPHIE

Momma taught me.

ANNA

Well, I taught her. So really, you learned it from me, now didn't you? All right, get in the car.

INT./EXT. AUTOMOBILE - MORNING (MOVING)

Anna drives along a quiet roadway. Sophie secure in the back.

SOPHIE

Where are we going, gram?

ANNA

To see my mom, sweetheart. Your great-gram.

Anna pulls into a parking lot of a retirement center.

EXT. RETIREMENT HOME - COURTYARD - MORNING

Sophie follows Anna as she pushes a wheelchair holding a frail GLORIA, 80s, a silver-haired former beauty. They pull over into the shade of a tree.

ANNA

There you go, mom. Is this okay?
(after no response)
Would you like something to drink?

Gloria just stares into the distance, watching Sophie do cartwheels in the grass.

ANNA (CONT'D)

She's a handful, that Sophie. Just like her mom at her age. You remember Janie, don't you?

Gloria can only blink. Sophie runs up and joins them.

SOPHIE

(to Anna)
What's wrong with her?

ANNA

Nothing, sweetie.
(low)
She just can't remember things like she used to.
(cheerily)
Listen, why don't you show your great-gram how you can jump rope while I get her some water?

Anna flags down a WORKER to see about a drink.

Sophie returns to skipping, her sing-song verse echoing through the courtyard.

SOPHIE

(while jumping)

Cinderella dressed in yellow
Went downstairs to kiss her fellow.
Made a mistake and kissed a snake
How many doctors did it take?

Gloria smiles. A hint of recognition in her face. As Sophie jumps, Gloria joins in the song.

GLORIA

(weakly)

Cinderella dressed in yellow,
Went downstairs to kiss a fellow...

Sophie laughs. She and Gloria continue on.

GLORIA/SOPHIE

Made a mistake and kissed a snake
How many doctors did it take?
One, two, three, four, five...

Sophie gets tangled up in the rope and stops singing. Gloria does the same. Her far-off gaze returns.

Anna returns with a water.

SOPHIE

Gram. She remembered something. I
was singing and she sang along!

Anna looks puzzled.

ANNA

Sophie. It's not nice to say
something that isn't true.

SOPHIE

But it's true! Watch!
(sings)
Cinderella dressed in yella, went
upstairs and kissed a fella...

Gloria stares at Sophie. Nothing registers.

ANNA

Like I thought. Go play and let mom
and I visit.

Sophie frowns, then is off on another adventure.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I wish it were true. I wish just
for a moment you could remember.
Something. Anything.

Anna hands her mom the water. Gloria doesn't know what to do with it. Anna sits down, frustrated.

EXT. RETIREMENT HOME - COURTYARD - LATER

A NURSE stands behind Gloria, ready to wheel her away. Anna bends over, gives her a hug.

ANNA

I'll see you tomorrow, mom.

Anna and Sophie walk toward the exit. Sophie turns to look back. Gloria waves at her. A sweet moment.

SOPHIE

Wait!

Sophie pulls away from Anna and runs to Gloria. Gives her a big hug. Stands with her a moment.

As Sophie comes running back, she sees the jump rope resting in Gloria's lap and is amazed as she sees Gloria softly singing:

GLORIA

How many kisses did it take: one,
two, three...
(to nurse)
I taught Anna that one...

At the mention of her name, the tears begin to fall down Anna's face, but she still manages a bright smile.

ANNA

Mom... you remembered...

But the recognition has already faded. Gloria looks past her at nothing in particular as the nurse wheels her away.

The moment is enough, though, for Anna.

FADE OUT.