

The Wish  
by  
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INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grace lies sleeping in a dimly lit bedroom.

DOCTOR NATHAN

(v.o)

You have terminal cancer Grace.  
You're going to die, and there's  
nothing you can do about it.

Grace jumps. Her eyes open wide. She looks to her side. An empty space.

JANUARY 21ST 2015 GRACE AND BRAD'S WEDDING DAY.

EXT. WEDDING VENUE - AFTERNOON

A summers day. Steel pan drums play in the background. A large field with a white carpet leading to the altar. Covered in pink and white roses. 50 guests sit waiting.

Brad, a 30 something year old man stands at the altar. Grace appears she is STUNNING. Wearing a white laced wedding gown.

The guests gaze in awe.

Brad turns around and lifts her veil.

EXT. WEDDING VENUE - CONTINUOUS

PRIEST

Now that Grace and Brad have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

(a beat)

You may now kiss the bride.

They kiss as the audience cheer loudly.

BRAD

I love you.

GRACE

I love you too.

Brad and Grace skip off hand in hand.

EXT. BEACH — EVENING

Brad sits on a blanket. Surrounded by golden-white sand. Grace lays with her head on his lap.

GRACE

It's been so nice spending the week here with you, I wish it could always be like this.

Brad touches Grace's face.

BRAD

I know babe, I wish we could stay here forever. We still have time together before I have to go back, I can't wait for her to be born.

Brad puts his hand on her belly. A clearly visible bump.

GRACE

I know, I just hope everything goes smoothly, when you go back to work, I'm scared I won't be able to take care of her all alone.

BRAD

You'll never be alone, I'm here with you every step of the way, a few months left in Iraq after she's born and then I get my permanent transfer back home. Then we'll be a proper family... going on vacations... Taking her to Disneyworld, all the things we've ever wanted.

GRACE

Yeah, I can't wait to wake up next to you every morning, with our beautiful little girl asleep beside us.

BRAD

Until she starts screaming through the night! Then I'll be wishing they'd take me back!

They both laugh together.

INT. MATERNITY WARD — MORNING

Brad is stood by Grace's side, tightly squeezing her hand as she is quite apparently in labour. 2 nurses are at the

end of her bed. The plain white walls and basic surroundings are barely noticed as Grace pushes with all she has to give birth.

NURSE

Wow Grace, you're doing so well,  
such a brave young lady, keep  
pushing, on the count of 3 give me  
a big push. 1... 2... 3...

Grace screams, pushing as hard as she can.

DISSOLVE TO:

NURSE (CONT'D)

Congratulations Grace, it's a  
healthy baby girl, she weighs 6  
pounds and 3 ounces.

The nurse walks over, placing the baby into Grace's arms. Grace is sweating with strands of hair stuck across her forehead. Brad gazes at her, then pushes his finger into the baby's hand.

GRACE

(softly)  
Hello little baby girl, I'm your  
mommy.

BRAD

She's perfect.

Brad slowly stands, moves his head toward her.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Hello angle, you're so beautiful,  
just like your mummy.

Brad's struggles to get his words out.

GRACE

Bella.  
(a beat)  
She's our beautiful little Bella.

BRAD

Bella... es, out perfect baby Bella.

Brad hugs Grace, Bella lays between them.

CUT TO:

INT. APPLEBY'S— EVENING

Grace and Brad sit inside a small booth for 2. Bella sits beside them in a high chair.

BRAD

I can't believe how big she's gotten.

GRACE

I know, she's grown so fast.

Bella makes noises in the background.

Grace takes his hand.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I don't want you to go back.

BRAD

I know baby, I wish I could stay, but I have to go and finish the job, I'll be back in 2 months, then that's it, I'm never going to leave my 2 beautiful girls ever again.

GRACE

Yes, yes, I know, I just wish it didn't have to happen now. I just want the best for Bella.

BRAD

And me too, she loves going to the mummy and baby club every Tuesday and Thursday, and I'm happy knowing you have people to talk to, and share the experience with, as well as me, but people you'll get to see all the time.

GRACE

I guess. Just promise me you'll come back as soon as you can.

BRAD

I promise baby, I'll be back before you know it.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE FAMILY HOME — MORNING

Brad puts in his last bag and slams the trunk of the taxi shut. He walks back over to Grace who's stood at the door holding Bella. He softly kisses Grace on the head.

BRAD  
OK baby, time for me to leave.

GRACE  
(sobbing)  
Yeah, I wish you could stay, be careful, stay safe and call me when you get to the airport.

BRAD  
I will, look after my little angle.

Brad enters the taxi. He winds down the window and waves as it drives away. Grace takes Bella's hand and waves with it.

INT. BABY CLUB – AFTERNOON

Grace is sat with Michelle, a lady from the club. They're having coffee. There are other women in the room, most with babies of their own, but some heavily pregnant. Bella bounces in a baby bouncer, along with the ladies baby.

MICHELLE  
Go on Grace have a biscuit! I will if you will.

They both chuckle.

GRACE  
Ok then, it's been a while since I've treated myself.

MICHELLE  
Too right.  
(A beat)  
You won't believe what little Taylor done last night... He was in his crib, just lying there like a little munching, I go to the bathroom for 2 minutes, get back and he has literally climbed out, and its laid on the floor like some little ninja!

Grace erupts with laughter.

GRACE  
How did he manage that?!

MICHELLE  
God only knows! He must have some kind of magical powers.

Grace glances over at Taylor, Michelle's baby.

GRACE

He's so precious.

MICHELLE

Him and Bella would make the perfect little couple!

GRACE

Well, I think they're a little young right now, but you never know!

Laughter.

MICHELLE

So, how's it been without Brad?

GRACE

Not too bad, you know I was worried before he left, but she's just such a little angel, sleeps all the way through the night, never causes any trouble, so yeah it's been ok actually.

MICHELLE

Aw that's good to hear Grace, you know where to find me if you ever need anything.

GRACE

Thanks Michelle, it's lovely having a friend like you.

MICHELLE

How long is it until he gets back?

GRACE

7 weeks to go, he left last week.

MICHELLE

Awesome! You better still come and talk to me, how else am I gonna get all these cookies without my David seeing!

Grace laughs out loud.

GRACE

Of course I will! I'll probably want to get out of the house after he's been back for a few days!

Michelle chuckles wiping Taylors nose with a tissue.

Grace looks at her watch.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I better get going now, Brad usually calls at around 5, so I'd better get her back home and feed Bella before he does.

MICHELLE

Ok then Grace, it was lovely seeing you again.

They both stand. They hug before Grace picks up Bella out of her seat.

GRACE

You too Michelle, take care of yourself and I'll see you on Thursday.

Grace leaves the room with Bella.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Grace sits on the sofa feeding Bella. She gazes over at her clock, it's 5.45.

GRACE

(softly)

Where's your daddy Bella, is he late, is he late, yes he is, naughty daddy.

Grace places Bella into her own chair. She lays with a smile on her face and kicks her legs back and forth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bella is asleep. Grace flicks through channels, it's 8pm. Grace is worried.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

She takes Bella to her bedroom and into the crib next to her and Brads bed.



GRACE  
 Goodnight my beautiful little  
 angle.

She kisses Bella on her head, and climbs into her own bed.  
 It's 10pm, Grace closes her eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

3.24am. Phone rings. Grace wakes up. She squints at her  
 phone. Incoming call from Iraq.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
 (worried)  
 Hello? Brad?

CALLER  
 Hello is that Grace?

GRACE  
 Yes who's this?

CALLER  
 It's sergeant major Timothy, I'm  
 afraid I have some bad news.  
 There's been an attack at 1 of our  
 military bases.

GRACE  
 (panicking)  
 What?! NO, what is it what's  
 happened, where is Brad?

Bella has woken up. she's crying in her cot, her screams  
 get louder. Grace is still with shock.

SERGEANT MAJOR TIMOTHY  
 I'm afraid he didn't make it, I'm  
 so sorry to have to tell you that.

Grace zones out. Silence. Bella screams in the background  
 but we can't hear her.

SERGEANT MAJOR TIMOTHY (CONT'D)  
 Grace? Grace are you still there.

Grace erupts into tears.

GRACE  
 (tearfully)  
 No Sergeant, this isn't true say  
 this isn't real, I'm begging you.

SERGEANT MAJOR TIMOTHY  
 I'm so sorry Grace.

Grace sits up, gazing at the wall in front of her. Lifeless. Still. Bella stops crying. All is very calm.

CROSSFADE:

3 months later.

EXT. OUTSIDE HOUSE — MORNING

A door Bell sounds. Michelle stand at Grace's front door holding Taylor. Graces opens the door.

GRACE

Michelle! How lovely to see you,  
do come in.

Grace pulls her into the house. She leads her to the kitchen. Grace takes Taylor and puts him into a baby walker, alongside Bella who's in one too.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Take a seat, get comfortable, I've  
got a Lasagne in the oven for us,  
it's almost ready!

MICHELLE

Oh I love Lasagne.

Michelle's eyes light up.

GRACE

Good because I've got plenty to go  
around! You can take some home for  
David if you want?

MICHELLE

Oh thanks' Grace yeah, that'd be  
lovely.

Grace puts on her funky pink patterned oven gloves and opens the oven. She pulls out a dish of lasagne big enough to feed a family of 8.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You weren't kidding when you said  
plenty.

Grace chuckles as she places it onto the worktop. She begins to cut it into portions. Bella and Taylor walk around together in the background.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

It sure smells good!

Grace brings 2 plates to the table.

GRACE

Dig in.

MICHELLE

Wow, it looks great, thank you.

They both tuck in.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

This tastes amazing Grace.

GRACE

Thank you.

MICHELLE

I didn't know you could cook so well, do you enjoy it?

GRACE

Yeah I do, it helps me relax, and this dish was Brad's favourite, so it's my favourite thing to make.

MICHELLE

Aw, I can see why he liked it so much, it is really delicious.

Taylor comes to the table and looks intrigued by what he seems to be able to smell. Grace and Michelle are amused.

GRACE

Aw, is somebody hungry?

MICHELLE

He's always hungry.

Grace laughs.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You can't have this baby, mummy will get you some food as soon as I'm finished.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

So how have you been getting on since the accident?

Grace looks down at the floor.

GRACE

Well you know, some days it's easier, some days it's harder.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

There's not a day that goes by where I don't think about him and miss him. But I see him every day in Bella, and I love that, it's like although he's no longer physically here with us, he will always be here with me, if you know what I mean?

MICHELLE

Aw, yeah I know what you mean, she has his eyes, they're so beautiful, she's such a lovely little girl, he would have been so proud of you and how well you're doing.

GRACE

Yeah, I know he would have, he was a great man, such a wonderful caring husband and father, he would have loved to see her growing up.

MICHELLE

I know, and my gosh, do they grow fast, it seems like yesterday that they were barely a week old, now look how much they've grown.

GRACE

Tell me about it, they'll be walking and talking before we know it!

GRACE (CONT'D)

Would you like another piece?

MICHELLE

No thank you, I'll not be able to move if I have any more!

Grace chuckles as she takes the plates to the dishwasher.

GRACE

Coffee?

MICHELLE

Oh yes please, that would be lovely, do you need any help?

GRACE

No don't be silly, It's fine.  
Michelle gets up and plays with  
Taylor and Bella as Grace makes  
the Coffee. Grace walks over to  
the table holding a packet of  
cookies, along with the 2 cups of  
coffee.

MICHELLE

Oh Grace, you know me all too  
well!

She places the cookies on the table and is re-joined by  
Michelle.

GRACE

I thought you'd like them!

Michelle picks up a biscuit, as does Grace who dunks it in  
her coffee.

MICHELLE

Don't tell David, he's always  
telling me to cut down on the  
sugar, but when I see a cookie I  
just have to eat it.

GRACE

No need to explain that to me! I'm  
exactly the same!

They both reach for another.

MICHELLE

So Grace, There's something I've  
been meaning to tell you.

(a beat)

Me and David have been thinking  
about moving.

GRACE

Oh lovely, moving where?

MICHELLE

Well, he's been offered a new  
position at the same company he's  
working with, they're opening a  
new office in Sydney, and they're  
looking for a new marketing  
manager, and because he's been  
with them for so long they've  
asked if he would like to do it.

GRACE

Australia? Woah that's far away.

MICHELLE

I know, I've put a lot of thought into it, I was really unsure at the time, but now it seems like a good idea, I've always wanted to go travelling and explore the world, but I've never really had the chance, so this could finally be it.

Grace looks thoughtful.

GRACE

Well, you're still young, there's nothing stopping you, I mean I don't know who I'll sit and eat cookies all day with but I'm sure I'll find someone!

Michelle smiles with genuine happiness.

MICHELLE

Yeah, I love our little days out with the kids, I'm going to miss that.

GRACE

Me too, I've really enjoyed having you as a friend Michelle, especially with what has happened to me, I really appreciate it.

Michelle tears up slightly.

MICHELLE

Aw Grace, you're a very special lady, do you know that? If Bella grows up to be half the woman you are then she's going to be very lucky.

GRACE

Thanks Michelle, when is it you're leaving?

MICHELLE

Well we're just waiting for the contract to come through, then once that's all sorted, we'll be off.

(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

His company have already arranged accommodation for us so it's all pretty straight forward from there, could be as soon as next week if all goes well.

GRACE

Oh that's awesome, I'm really happy for you!

MICHELLE

And it would be great for you to visit, anytime you wanted too, you could bring Bella as well, I'm sure she'd love it.

GRACE

I'm sure she would, it's a little far away, but never say never!

Bella starts crying in the background, Grace walks over to her.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What's wrong sweet heart? Is someone hungry?

Michelle stands.

MICHELLE

We'd better get going now anyway. Taylor will be ready for his afternoon nap, and I need to get a few last-minute things done before we hopefully leave next week.

GRACE

Ok then Michelle, well I really do hope that everything goes well for you, send my love to David, and congratulate him on the new position for me won't you.

MICHELLE

Of course, thank you.

Michelle picks up Taylor and walks to the door.

GRACE

Oh let me get some of that Lasagne for you to bring home for David.

She places a piece of lasagne into a plastic container and hands it to Michelle, following her to the front door.

MICHELLE

Well it has been so lovely to spend so much time with you Grace, do take care of yourself and if you ever need anything you know where to reach me.

GRACE

Thanks Michelle, you too, if you ever need anything don't hesitate to ask, and I wish you all the best of luck.

They hug and Michelle walks away towards her car.

MICHELLE

Until next time Grace.

GRACE

Until next time.

INT. DOCTORS WAITING ROOM – MORNING

Grace reads a magazine. Bella lays asleep in her car seat. The receptionist picks up the telephone.

RECEPTIONIST

Grace Williams, Doctor Nathan is ready for you, it's just through this door on the left.

The receptionist points toward the door.

GRACE

Thank you.

Grace appears nervous. She picks up Bella and walks toward the Doctor's room.

Doctor Nathan is stood at the door holding it open.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Morning Grace, please do come in.

Grace enters the room carefully as not to wake up a sleeping Bella.

GRACE

Thank you Doctor.

Grace puts the Car seat to one side and sits down.

DOCTOR

So how have you been Grace?



Doctor Nathan looks uneasy.

GRACE

I've been good thanks Doctor, the sickness comes and goes, but I'm just doing my best to try and get on with it.

Doctor Nathan goes silent.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Is everything ok Doctor.

Grace starts to look fearful.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Well Grace, the results of your scan came back...

GRACE

(cutting in)

Yes...

A moment of silence as she looks at him with wide eyes, as if to say 'TELL ME WHAT IS WRONG'.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Well I'm so sorry to have to tell you this...

(a beat)

Grace, you have stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, and we fear that it may have also spread to your brain.

Grace sighs as she sinks down into her chair.

GRACE

No, it can't be, I don't have that, I can't.

DOCTOR NATHAN

I'm so, so, sorry Grace, I promise you that I will do everything I possibly can to make this as comfortable for you as possible.

Grace shakes her head in disbelief and gazes down at the floor.

GRACE

So what happens now?

She still hasn't looked up, it's as though she can't bear to look at him after what he's just told her.

Doctor Nathan leans his head into his hands.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Well it's quite far developed, I don't want to give you false expectations, unfortunately at this stage there is very little we can do to stop it.

GRACE

But you CAN cure me... Can't you...

Doctor Nathan takes a breath. Searching for the courage to tell this lovely lady that she is going to die, and there is absolutely nothing he or anyone else can do to stop it.

DOCTOR NATHAN

We need to try and manage expectations with this Grace.

Everything goes silent. Grace is lifeless, she gazes over at Bella.

INT. OUTSIDE DOCTOR NATHAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUED

Grace leaves the Doctor's room, a nurse tries to comfort her but Grace pushes her out of the way and exits the building.

Silence still as she paces to her car, holding Bella who is crying, screaming. Grace is emotionless.

INT. GRACE'S CAR - CONTINUED

Grace is driving home with Bella in the back seat.

Tears flying down Bella's face.

Grace drives straight through a red light.

EXT. GRACE'S FRONT DOOR - CONTINUED

Grace shakes as she tries to put her key into the lock of her front door.

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Grace lays in bed, fixated on the white ceiling above her.

Bella lays beside her crying, but Grace is oblivious.

INT. GROCERY STORE — MORNING

A week later. Grace is in the baby powdered milk section, comparing 2 brands.

Bella is asleep in the cart seat.

A store assistant walks by and Grace raises her hand like a school child about to ask a question.

GRACE

Excuse me, can you tell me the difference between these 2 products please?

The store assistant comes over at once, happy to help.

STORE ASSISTANT

Sure, let me have a look.

The store assistant picks up the packages and briefly skim reads each one for the information.

STORE ASSISTANT (CONT'D)

Well ma'am, this one is just the regular formula, but this 1 on the left also has added nutrients that help support...

The sound of her voice disappears as we focus on Grace's blank face. The store assistant is clearly still explaining.

GRACE

Thanks, I think I'll go with this one.

She throws it into her cart and smiles at the store assistant.

STORE ASSISTANT

Good choice, there's an extra 5% off all baby products also if you use your store card with us today ma'am.

Grace nods and walks off towards the till.

Grace arrives at the till and notices Wendy serving, a friend of her mother's. An older lady, red head, kind eyes, mid 60's.

Wendy waves briefly at Grace as she finishes off serving the customer in front of her. Grace waves back, unloading her shopping onto the conveyer belt. Some baby formula, 3

packs of aspirin, 2 ready meals, some tropical juice, and a baguette.

She looks down at a sleeping Bella, and gently kisses her on the forehead.

GRACE  
(whispering)  
I love you

She steps forward ready to pack her things away.

WENDY  
Grace, I haven't seen you in here  
for a while, how's everything  
going?

She seems happy to see Grace.

GRACE  
Fine, everything's fine.

Grace is blunt, Wendy picks up on it.

WENDY  
Good, you're looking well.

Wendy begins to scan the items Grace has, passing them to her one by one and Grace packs them into a carrier bag.

GRACE  
Thanks, it doesn't feel like it!

Wendy chuckles.

WENDY  
How's your mom?

GRACE  
She's ok I guess, you know, it's  
horrible for her being locked in  
that place since dad died, she  
barely knows who I am anymore.

Wendy looks a little taken aback by her response.

WENDY  
Dementia is a terrible thing  
Grace... But she is in the best  
place, she's very well looked  
after there.

GRACE

Yes I guess... I'm going to see her later on this evening actually, it's been a few weeks now since we last spoke.

WENDY

Oh that will be nice, I'm sure she'll really appreciate the company.

Grace flashes a look as if to say 'Oh yes, I'm sure she'd love to hear how after losing her husband, her only daughter is about to drop dead of cancer'.

GRACE

Yeah.

After scanning all of the items Wendy looks at Grace expecting to receive something.

WENDY

Do you have your store card?

GRACE

Oh no, I've forgotten it, never mind.

WENDY

Ok, I'll add your points onto the receipt for you, so that when you come back next time we can add them onto your card balance. That'll be \$22.76 please.

Grace reaches into her bag and pulls out her purse. She drops it onto the floor. She bends down immediately to pick it up before handing \$30 to Wendy.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Is everything ok Grace?

GRACE

Yeah I'm fine, just got a lot to do.

Grace flashes an obviously fake smile.

WENDY

There's your change, \$7.24.

Grace quickly puts it back into her purse and picks up the bag.

WENDY (CONT'D)  
Say hi to your mom for me.

GRACE  
I will do, bye now.

WENDY  
Bye Grace.

Grace exits the shop.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE – AFTERNOON

Grace is sat in her usual waiting seat. Bella is in her car seat beside her. Grace plays with Bella and makes faces at her. Bella is enjoying the attention.

The nurse that Grace pushed past last week comes out of a room, Grace immediately stands and calls her over.

GRACE  
I'm so sorry about the other day  
nurse... I was just...

NURSE  
(cutting in)  
Don't you dare apologize... I can  
completely understand, it's a very  
difficult time, you weren't  
thinking straight.

Grace nods as if to agree.

GRACE  
Yeah, it is.

The nurse reaches out and touches Grace's arm.

NURSE  
I'm here for you whenever you need  
me, day or night, even if it's  
just for a chat, you can always  
call me or let me know and I'll be  
right there.

GRACE  
Thank you nurse.

Grace sits back down into the chair looking relieved .

A man we will come to know as Michael walks over from the other side of the room. 6 ft. in height, deep brown eyes, typical good looks, tall, dark and handsome.

He plonks himself down in the chair next to Bella and looks at her with widened eyes and a glaring smile.

MICHAEL  
Hello, and who might this  
beautiful little creature be?

Grace looks a little shy, is she blushing? She looks at him with a genuine smile.

GRACE  
Bella... it's her name.

Michael still hasn't taken his eyes off of Bella.

MICHAEL  
Well hello Bella, you're so sweet  
aren't you. You look just like  
your mommy.

Michael glances up at Grace with a cheeky look on his face. Grace chuckles at him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
And those bright blue eyes... wow.

GRACE  
Beautiful eyes, just like her  
daddy had.

Michael stops and looks up rather awkwardly.

MICHAEL  
Had?

GRACE  
Yeah, he was in a tragic accident  
back in Iraq, just after she was  
born.

MICHAEL  
Oh gosh, I'm really sorry to hear  
that.

GRACE  
(Interrupting)  
It's ok.

RECEPTIONIST  
Grace, Doctor Nathan is ready to  
see you now.

She picks up Bella's car seat and walks into the Doctors room.

GRACE

Bye for now.

INT. DOCTOR NATHANS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DOCTOR NATHAN

Hello Grace, please do take a seat.

He props up the cushion on the seat and gestures at her to sit down. Grace takes a seat.

DOCTOR NATHAN (CONT'D)

So, Grace, how have you found the last week.

Grace seems in normal spirit, if you didn't know, you wouldn't think anything was wrong.

GRACE

Well, to tell you the truth Doctor, it hasn't really sunk in yet. Like I sit there and think. In 6 months, I could be dead. I won't be here anymore. I won't get to see my Bella grow up, and go to school, graduate you know everything a mother wants to see. But I want to find a family for her. It's my only wish, I want her to have a good life.

Grace begins to tear up as she turns towards Bella.

GRACE (CONT'D)

(continued)

She's my world, if I'm not there to give it to her I need to find someone that will. To love her, and give her the life she deserves.

DOCTOR NATHAN

You know Grace, you're so strong that I know you will find someone, who can look after her, and raise her so that she follows in your footsteps, you're an incredibly brave woman.

GRACE

Thank you Doctor.



DOCTOR NATHAN

Have you been experiencing any pain at all?

GRACE

Not really, I get headaches from time to time, but nothing I can't solve with an aspirin.

DOCTOR NATHAN

That's good to hear, I want you to let me know if anything starts to become too much for you to handle, then I can get some medication to help with things, and keep you as well as possible for Bella.

GRACE

I will do Doctor.

DOCTOR NATHAN

So Grace, there are a number of treatments available for you, we have a few different options, with aiming to extend the time you have.

GRACE

(Interrupting) No, no I don't want any treatments, I want things to happen naturally.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Would you like me to perhaps discuss the possible treatments we can offer you so you can have a think about them when you go home?

GRACE

Honestly Doctor, I don't want anything to be done to me, I want to spend as much time with Bella as possible, and finding her a family to love her, not stuck in some room being put through all of these machines just so I can try to add a few more days onto my life.

Grace seems a little distressed. Taking a slow calm breath she looks up at Doctor Nathan.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Don't... it's hard, just know that it's an option that's available to you, but it's completely your choice.

GRACE

Thanks.

DOCTOR NATHAN

So, do you have anything planned for this evening?

GRACE

Well ,I'm going to see my mom, I haven't told her yet, so I'm going to drive up and tell her this evening.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Oh ok, I mean if you like I can come with you? I've known your mother for a long time, if you need the support I'd be happy to come with you after I finish here?

GRACE

Aw that's sweet, but it's ok, I appreciate the offer though.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Ok Grace, well thank you for coming to see me, we'll get you booked in next week again for the routine check-up, and if you do need anything before then please don't hesitate to pop by and I'll make sure I see you.

GRACE

Will do Doctor.

Grace picks up Bella's car seat and leaves the room.

INT. DOCTORS RECEPTION - CONTINUED

Grace is talking to the receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST

Ok Grace, Doctor Nathan will see you at the same time again next Tuesday.

GRACE

Thank you.

As grace is leaving the building she catches Michael's eye. He waves at her with a grin on his face. She waves back with a smile and exits.

EXT. CAR PARK — NIGHT

Grace has parked up and exited the car, she undoes the seatbelt around Bella's car seat.

GRACE

(softly to Bella)

We have to go and tell Grandma now baby. I haven't got a clue what I'm going to say though, you got any ideas?

She looks at Bella as if she's expecting a response. She picks her up and slams the car door.

INT. HOSPITAL — EVENING

A nurse sits at the reception desk.

GRACE

Hi Jackie, I'm here to see my mom.

JACKIE

Hello Grace, of course, I'll just make sure she's in her room and ready to see you, just bear with me a moment.

Jackie picks up the phone.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

(On the phone)

Hi Sue, I've got Grace here... Yes... Ok perfect I'll send her through now.

Jackie puts down the phone and stands.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Ok Grace, would you like to follow me and I'll take you to her room.

Grace follows Jackie into the brightly lit corridor. Jackie gestures towards a door.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
Do you need any help or anything  
before I leave you to it?

GRACE  
No That's fine, thank you.

Jackie nods and walks away.

Grace grips the door handle and takes a deep breath before twisting it and entering the room.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Hi mom.

Grace's mom is sat in a dark brown chair, in the corner of her room. In the other corner Opposite is her small television, playing re-runs of an old black and white series from when she was young.

There are many pictures around her room, a new-born baby Bella, pictures of Grace herself as she appears now, as well as old photos of when Grace was a child.

Grace steps over towards her and places Bella on her bed.

GRACE'S MOM  
H-hello.

She looks very confused, it's as if she doesn't know who has just walked into her room.

GRACE  
It's me mum, Grace, your daughter.

Grace picks up a photo of her from the side of the room and brings it over to her mother.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Look mum it's me Grace.

Grace's mom looks deep in thought as she struggles to remember who this Grace person is.

GRACE'S MOM  
Grace?

She still isn't convinced.

GRACE  
Yes, mom Grace.

Grace's mom seems to be slowly coming to terms with the fact that she has a daughter she doesn't remember. She

gazes over towards Bella looking confused. She points at her.

GRACE'S MOM  
A baby? You have a baby?

Grace nods.

GRACE  
Yes mom, Bella, you remember Bella we came to see you a few weeks ago, look.

Grace points to the photo of Bella.

GRACE'S MOM  
Bella.

It doesn't ring any bells for her.

Grace picks Bella up and sits close to her mother placing Bella on her lap. Her mom stares at Bella, she looks intrigued, perhaps even a little joyous.

GRACE'S MOM (CONT'D)  
Hello baby, hello.

Grace's mom makes hand gestures and facial expressions at Bella. Bella giggles and seems to be really enjoying the attention.

GRACE  
So how have you been mom?

GRACE'S MOTHER  
I have been ok, I like watching my shows, sometimes they bring back memories from when I was young. I don't really remember anything, so it's nice, it's like I always have company, and the nurses are nice.

Grace smiles as she moves a little closer, she's beginning to look more nervous.

GRACE  
You look really beautiful mom, I love your top.

Grace's mom looks down at her top.

GRACE'S MOM  
Thanks... So... What do you do?

GRACE

I'm a teacher mom, I've had some time off though, to look after Bella, I'm not sure if I'll be able to go back.

GRACE'S MOTHER

Oh good girl, helping the little children.

GRACE

Yes mom.

A moment of silence in the room.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Remember when I was a little girl mum? You used to take me to the park, push me on the swings every day after school... And I never wanted to go home.

Grace looks deep in reflection as she remembers things how they used to be, she seems happy as she gets lost in her memories.

GRACE (CONT'D)

How I'd always want an extra scoop of ice cream. It had to be chocolate, it was always the best, I haven't tasted an ice cream like that for as long as I can remember. Then we'd go home for dinner and you'd say to me 'If you don't eat all your vegetables, you won't make it onto the cheerleading squad when you get older'.

Her mother looks a little lost, trying so hard to relate to the words that are coming out of Grace's mouth, but she just can't seem to remember any of it, no matter how hard she tries.

Grace snaps out of it and looks at the blank face of her mother. Grace stands up and places Bella back into her car seat on the bed.

She walks over to the window, She's very frustrated.

GRACE'S MOTHER

What's wrong?

Grace turns around and picks up a photo of herself from the side. She walks back over to her mother.

GRACE  
Do you recognise me mom? Do you  
know who I am?

Grace's mom looks uncomfortable, she seems embarrassed. She looks down at the floor.

GRACE'S MOM  
I'm sorry.

Grace looks down in disappointment.

GRACE  
It's ok mom... I have to tell you  
something.

Grace looks into her mother's eyes and takes a deep breath.

GRACE'S MOM  
Yes?

Grace's mom stares back at Grace, all is briefly calm as we wait for Grace to come out and tell her mother.

GRACE  
I love you mom, I want to say  
thank you for everything you've  
done for me. I've had an amazing  
life, and I appreciate every  
second of it, thanks to you, I had  
the best childhood I could have  
wished for, and you've always been  
there by my side, through  
everything I've been through.

Grace leaps out of her chair as a tear runs down her face. She hugs her mother tightly, she doesn't want to let go.

After releasing herself she wipes away the tears from her face and collects all the pictures from around the room.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
We have to go now mom.

Grace's mom looks confused at what has just happened.

GRACE'S MOM  
But my pictures? What are you  
doing with them?

Grace looks down at the pictures.

GRACE

I, I'm just going to get them cleaned, and I'll bring them back next time, ok?

GRACE'S MOM

Oh, ok then.

Grace kisses her mother on the forehead and looks at her face closely with tears rolling down her cheeks.

GRACE

You're so beautiful mom, I love you.

Grace builds up the strength to pick Bella up and heads towards the door.

GRACE'S MOM

Bye Grace, I love you too.

Grace leaves the room, she erupts into tears and runs down the corridor with Bella, leaving no trace of herself or Bella behind.

INT. ADOPTION CENTRE – LATE MORNING

Grace is sat in an office type room. Opposite her is a 20 something year old female, seemingly friendly and caring enough. They're chatting.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

I'm so sorry to hear that Grace, we will do our best for you and little Bella, and we will try to find her a loving family to bring her up. In regards to the time frame, it can take anywhere from 12 – 18 months to find a new family, and complete all the processes necessary to enable the adoption to happen for you.

GRACE

But I don't have 12 – 18 months, isn't there something you can do to speed up the process, I want to meet the new family, I want to get to know them, I can't leave this world not knowing where my Bella is going.



## ADOPTION ASSISTANT

I completely see where you're coming from, it's pretty standard timing for all adoption agencies, I mean there really is very little I'd be able to do to increase the speed of the process for you.

Grace abruptly stands.

## GRACE

I'm sorry, I have to go, I don't want to do this.

She leaves the room immediately.

## EXT. OUTSIDE DOCTORS OFFICE — AFTERNOON

Grace exits the Doctors building, as she's walking Michael shows up.

## MICHAEL

GRACE!

Grace is surprised to see him.

## GRACE

Oh hey...

Grace pauses, as she doesn't know his name.

## MICHAEL

Michael, my names Michael.

## GRACE

Hey Michael.

## MICHAEL

How's everything going?

## GRACE

Fine, about as good as things can be.

## MICHAEL

Oh, how comes?

## GRACE

(bluntly)

I have cancer.

## MICHAEL

Oh gosh, I'm so sorry...

This response has angered Grace.

GRACE  
(raising her voice)  
DON'T APOLOGISE. I'm sick of everyone apologising to me, it's not your fault. You didn't give this to me, you don't have to say sorry.

Michael is taken aback by her response.

MICHAEL  
Right yeah... sorry I never meant to offend you.

Grace lets out a breath.

GRACE  
No, no it's fine honestly, I'm sorry I snapped.

MICHAEL  
That's OK... So where you heading to now?

GRACE  
Just going to the store, to pick up some groceries for later.

MICHAEL  
Oh really? Me too, I need to get some stuff for the house, you know, groceries and stuff.

Grace chuckles.

GRACE  
OK then, well I better get off, take care.

MICHAEL  
See you later.

Michael grins. Grace walks off to her car.

INT. GROCERY STORE - AFTERNOON

Grace enters the store, pushing her cart with Bella sat inside.

Shortly after, Michael walks in holding a basket. Grace glances over and notice him, she jokingly rolls her eyes as he catches her eye contact.

Michael walks over.

MICHAEL

What a coincidence! I had no idea you'd be here.

GRACE

(Sarcastically)

Oh yes, such a coincidence.

Grace look around picking up a few items. Michael follows her around.

MICHAEL

So, it's a lovely day today isn't it.

Grace finds the situation quite funny.

GRACE

It is, the sun is shining, clear blue skies, what more could we want?

MICHAEL

To be on a beach... relaxing as the waves come in and out?

Grace laughs as she continues to shop. She walks over to the baby formula aisle, Michael follows her.

GRACE

You need baby formulae too?

MICHAEL

Yeah, sometimes I get a bit bored of milk, so I like to mix it up a little.

GRACE

Oh right... Gotcha!

MICHAEL

Yep, it's the truth, got to get all those extra vitamins, feeding myself everyday isn't easy you know!

Grace heads over towards the till, followed by Michael, whose basket is still empty.

GRACE

Wow, you got a lot of stuff there.

Michael reaches over, picks up a packet of gum and throws it into his basket.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Oh gum, that's what you needed right?

MICHAEL  
Yep, that was it.

Grace gestures for him to go in front of her.

GRACE  
Well seeing as that's all you have go on, why don't you go ahead of me.

Michael steps forward and places his packet of gum onto the conveyor belt.

MICHAEL  
Why thank you Grace.

EXT. GROCERY STORE EXIT - CONTINUOUS

MICHAEL  
(Jokingly)  
So I had a lot of fun in there with you Grace.

GRACE  
I'm glad you enjoyed it.

MICHAEL  
And before you go, would you like to go for a coffee with me sometime this week?

Grace blushes.

GRACE  
Oh, well I'm quite busy you see..

MICHAEL  
Right OK, well here you go.

Michael writes his number onto a small piece of paper that he pulls from his pocket.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Give me a text tomorrow and let me know, I'll just be sat at home in silence, wondering anxiously if you'll text me.

GRACE  
OK then, see you around!

MICHAEL  
See you soon!

They part ways.

INT. GRACE'E HOME - AFTERNOON

Grace is flicking through a phone book, she stops on the foster and adoption services. A few companies are circled. She circles another, then picks up the phone and calls them.

GRACE  
Hi, my name's Grace, I'm just calling to find out a little more information about the fostering system, and how it works, I was wondering if I could drop by later today and speak to someone about it?

Grace takes a moment to listen to their response.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
OK perfect, I'll drop by in about an hour.

INT. FOSTER CENTRE OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Grace sits in an office with a foster agent.

FOSTER AGENT  
So what happens generally Grace, is once Bella is passed over to us, we begin our search to find her a family. They will look after Bella with the support of one of our workers, who will help train them and ensure that they are doing the best they possibly can for Bella, until a permanent adoptive family can be found for her.

Grace is quite obviously unimpressed with this response.

GRACE

That's not good enough, I don't want Bella to be passed around from person to person, she needs a stable home, I want her to be loved and have security, not be passed from one family to the next, as you attempt to find a permanent family.

FOSTER AGENT

I understand Grace.

GRACE

(Cutting in)

So you keep saying... but I don't have long left, how can I just lay down and die not knowing what is going to happen to her.

FOSTER AGENT

OK Grace, I fully understand, the only other thing we can do in this instance is to find a range of suitable carers now for you, so that you may meet with some of them and spend a little time getting to know them.

GRACE

It's still the same though, I need to find a permanent loving family for Bella, a mother and a father that will love her unconditionally and bring her up as their own.

FOSTER AGENT

If it helps Grace, I can get you the number of some local adoption agencies, I think they may be better suited to help in this situation, as I think it is the adoption route that you are looking to go down.

GRACE

I've already spoken to an adoption agency a few days ago, they told me it would take 18 months before they could do anything, that's no good to me, I don't have 18 months left to wait.

FOSTER AGENT

OK Grace, what I'll do, I'll get you the number for the agency where I used to work, it's a little further away than some of the agencies, it's about a 30-mile drive, but they do an amazing job, they could have all of this done and ready for you within 6 months.

Agent types into her computer. Takes out a piece of paper and writes down a number.

Grace looks at it briefly before putting it into her pocket.

GRACE

Thank you, I'll try them later on, I'm sorry if you felt like I was having a go, I'm just a little all over the place at the moment.

The foster agent leans forward towards Grace.

FOSTER AGENT

Look Grace, what you're doing is inspiring, I'm a mother myself and so I know how much Bella means to you, it must be so difficult to go through what you're going through, and you're so brave and being so strong for your beautiful little girl, so please don't ever feel the need to apologise.

Grace seemingly appreciates the comments from the Foster Agent.

GRACE

Thank you, I appreciate the help.

Grace gets up and walks to the door. The agent follows and puts her arm around her.

FOSTER AGENT

If you need any further support or help Grace do feel free to come back at any time. And I really do wish you the best of luck with your search.

GRACE

Thanks a lot, I appreciate the help.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE – MORNING

Grace is sat at the table with a bowl of Cereal. Bella is sat opposite in her high chair giggling, attempting to eat a baby biscuit.

GRACE

Is that yummy bubba? Yeah?

Grace takes a spoon full of her cereal and continues to watch Bella. She looks over to the counter and see's Michaels note.

Grace brings to over. She places it in front of her and bites her lip nervously as she gazes down at it.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Mummy got a new friend Bella,  
shall we go and see him?

Bella looks excited, as if she is saying 'YES MOMMY LETS GO'.

She writes a text message saying 'Coffee?', she hits send. She looks up at Bella and raises her shoulders.

She gets a reply, 'Sorry I can't... busy.'

Shortly after, a 2nd message arrives 'Just kidding! I thought you'd never ask' followed by an excited emoji.

INT. LOCAL COFFEE SHOP – AFTERNOON

Grace walks into the store, carrying Bella. She spots Michael sat on the left side of the room, a table for 2 with both chairs pulled out and a high chair he's pulled over for Bella. He stands looking thrilled to see her and Bella.

Grace walks over.

MICHAEL

Hey Grace, how are you?

GRACE

Hey, I'm good thanks, how are you?

Grace puts Bella into the high chair, she sits down opposite Michael.

MICHAEL

Better now that my favourite  
little baby has arrived.



He looks over at Bella and gently pinches her cheek.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Hello Bella, wow look at your  
pretty little outfit, did you  
choose that yourself?

Grace holds her lips closed to stop herself from laughing.  
Michael looks back up at Grace.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
You don't look too bad either I  
guess.

Grace raises her eyebrow.

GRACE  
How charming.

MICHAEL  
You look lovely, as always... So,  
can I get you a coffee?

GRACE  
Sure, I'll have a cappuccino..  
Here, one sec...

Grace reaches into her purse.

MICHAEL  
No, no put it away don't be silly,  
my treat.

GRACE  
Are you sure?

MICHAEL  
Certain.

Michael walks off to the counter to get the coffee.

Shortly after Michael returns.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
They're bringing it over for us.  
So, what made you change your  
mind? Could you not resist my  
charming sense of humour?

GRACE  
Ha! Don't flatter yourself! I was  
bored if you must know, thought I  
could do with a nice day out, away  
from the house.

MICHAEL  
Well I'm glad that you were bored,  
because...

A young waiter comes over, holding a large tray.

WAITER  
The Chocolate Cheesecake?

The waiter looks at both of them but neither respond.  
Michael turns to Grace.

MICHAEL  
Would you like the chocolate or  
vanilla?

GRACE  
Oh, thank you, I don't mind, you  
can choose.

MICHAEL  
Go on Grace, I insist.

GRACE  
Oh, thank you, erm.. I'll have the  
chocolate one please.

WAITER  
Good choice.

The waiter places the chocolate cheesecake in front of  
Grace, and the vanilla one in front of Michael.

WAITER (CONT'D)  
Enjoy.

The waiter walks away.

GRACE  
Thanks, you didn't have to get  
anything! Did you want the  
chocolate one?

MICHAEL  
No, no don't be silly.

They both pick up their forks and take a bite.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Nice?

GRACE  
It is, very nice actually, thank  
you.

MICHAEL

Good, So what do you like to do in your spare time?

GRACE

Well I used to enjoy going to the movies, fairgrounds, anything lively and with bright lights will do! I've always wanted to do to Disneyworld!

MICHAEL

Oh Disneyworld is awesome! I love going to the movies. Favourite film?

GRACE

Oh that's a difficult question!  
(a beat)  
Hmmm.. it's gotta be either pretty woman or... the notebook for me.

MICHAEL

I love the notebook! But that's confidential, make sure you don't go telling any of my friends!

Grace laughs. Michael seems to enjoy watching her laugh.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Favourite colour?

GRACE

Red.

Grace finishes her cheesecake and puts down the fork as she takes a sip of her cappuccino.

MICHAEL

Favourite food?

GRACE

Hmmm... another hard question, I love Italian food, it's too hard to choose just 1 thing. What's your favourite?

MICHAEL

That's easy... chocolate cheesecake.

Grace goes red, looking awkwardly embarrassed.

GRACE

No way! don't say that! I feel bad now.

Michael chuckles.

MICHAEL  
(a beat)  
I'm only joking.

Michael goes quiet for the first time since she arrived. Bella comes to his rescue as she lets out a little shout. Both of their attention is quickly focused onto her.

GRACE  
Oh wow is Bella shouting?

MICHAEL  
She's probably annoyed with you  
for eating all the cake.

Grace laughs as she gestures to hit him on the arm.

GRACE  
Is Bella hungry?

Grace takes out Bella's bottle from inside of her handbag. She put it into Bella's hand. She sits back as she drinks from it.

MICHAEL  
Good girl.

GRACE  
So Michael, what do you do for  
work?

MICHAEL  
I'm an electrician, self-employed...  
So if you ever need a light bulb  
changing, I'm your man.

GRACE  
Very funny, I'm sure I'd manage  
that!

MICHAEL  
And what do you do?

GRACE  
I was a teacher, I've had to give  
it up now, to focus the time I  
have left on Bella.

MICHAEL  
Time left?

GRACE  
Yeah, breast cancer, stage 4.

The light and cheery mood seems to have disappeared.  
Michael's unsure of what to say.

An awkward pause.

MICHAEL

Is there not something they can do  
to cure it?

Grace shakes her head.

GRACE

Nope, 6 - 9 months, that's  
best-case scenario.

MICHAEL

Oh Grace..

GRACE

(Interrupting)

I don't want any sympathy, I've  
had a good life, Bella is my life,  
and she's all that matters to me  
now, I'm learning to accept it. I  
have a Radiotherapy session coming  
up, I was against it at first, but  
after I saw Doctor Nathan last  
time I agreed to give it a go, so  
we'll see what happens there.

MICHAEL

Oh right.. well.. I could come with  
you if you want.. I could wait  
outside and watch Bella for you?

Grace doesn't seem too keen on the idea. Michael notices  
from her facial expressions.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I mean it's completely up to you  
of course, just as a friend for  
support.

GRACE

Do you know what... OK, yes, you  
can come. Maybe it will be nice to  
have someone else there with me.

MICHAEL

OK, yeah just let me know when it  
is and I'll come by and pick you  
up, and then take you both back  
home after?

GRACE

Yeah... alright, it's next Wednesday at 11.

MICHAEL

I'm making a note of that in my mental diary.

He writes with his finger in mid-air.

Grace looks down at her watch.

GRACE

We'd better get going now, it's almost time for Bella to have her nap, I wouldn't want her getting all grumpy on me.

MICHAEL

OK Grace, well it's been lovely seeing you today, I've really enjoyed it, even though you did eat all of my chocolate cheesecake!

Grace gets up out of her seat, as does Michael, her smile seems to be back.

GRACE

Thanks for inviting us, it's been a nice change.

Michael goes in for a brief hug which turns out a little awkward.

Grace picks up Bella and they leave.

INT. GRACE'S HOME – EVENING

Grace is on the sofa holding her phone.

GRACE

Hey, is this J.C.A Adoption agency?

LADY ON THE PHONE

It is yes, how may I help you?

GRACE

Perfect, I got your number from a lady at my local foster agency, she said to give you a call about my daughter.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

I'm no longer going to be able to look after her, and I need to find her a family to take her in within the next 6 months. Is that something that seems at all possible?

LADY ON THE PHONE

Yes, it's definitely something that we can look into.

GRACE

Oh awesome.

LADY ON THE PHONE

Would you mind dropping by tomorrow? To give us some more details about what the circumstances are, so that we can look at ways to help you?

GRACE

Yeah I can do, sure.

LADY ON THE PHONE

OK then awesome, is there anything else you need help with before you come?

GRACE

No that will be all for now, I'll see you tomorrow morning.

LADY ON THE PHONE

OK then, thank you very much for your call, bye now.

GRACE

Bye.

Grace hangs up.

INT. ADOPTION AGENCY - MORNING

Grace is sat filling out a bunch of forms. She gazes at Bella looking guilty.

EXTERNAL. OUTSIDE GRACE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Michael pulls up in his car and sounds his horn. Grace opens the door, holding Bella in her car seat, and walks over to the car.

Before she arrives at the car Michael steps out to assist.

MICHAEL

Hey.

GRACE

Hey.

Michael opens the back door. Grace puts Bella in and puts the seat belt around her car seat.

They both get into the car and Michael drives off.

MICHAEL

Everything OK?

GRACE

Yeah, fine, just a little nervous.  
I'm not sure what to expect.

MICHAEL

Yeah, right.  
(a beat)  
So... Been anywhere nice in the past week?

GRACE

No not really, I went to visit another adoption agency.

MICHAEL

Oh awesome, how did it go?

GRACE

Yeah, it was alright, I'm just waiting for them to get back to me, once they've looked over the details of my application.

MICHAEL

Oh OK, I'm sure they'll find something.

GRACE

I hope so.

MICHAEL

And how has the adorable little Bella been?

Michael looks at her in his mirror.

GRACE

She's good, always giggling and smiling, as always.



MICHAEL  
Aw, she's a good girl.

GRACE  
She is, when she's not keeping  
mommy awake during the night time.

Michael looks at Grace and smiles.

MICHAEL  
We're almost there.

Grace gulps as Michael turns into the car park.

EXT. CAR PARK — MORNING

Michael drives forward into a parking space. He comes to a stop and they both exit the car.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE — MORNING

Grace walks over to the receptionist, holding Bella, with Michael stood right behind her.

RECEPTIONIST  
Hello Grace, I think Doctor Nathan  
is ready for you to go straight  
in, so if you go through to him as  
soon as you're ready.

GRACE  
Oh, right, thank you.

Grace goes to her usual seat, she puts Bella on the chair as Michael is stood by her side. She turns towards him.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Are you sure you're OK staying out  
here with her? Or do you want me  
to take her in with me?

MICHAEL  
Yes, of course, I'm more than  
happy to sit and look after her  
while you get your treatment.

GRACE  
OK then, if you need anything or  
if anything's wrong come and get  
me straight away.

MICHAEL

I will do, good luck in there, be brave.

GRACE

Thanks.

Grace walks off towards Doctor Nathans office. Doctor Nathan is stood outside his office waiting.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Hi Grace, how are we feeling?

GRACE

Nervous.

DOCTOR NATHAN

OK, we're going to be in a different room today, so follow me upstairs and we'll sit and have a little chat before we start anything, so that I can answer any questions for you, and make sure you're comfortable before we begin.

GRACE

OK Doctor.

Doctor Nathan heads up the stairs as Grace follows. They enter a room which is similar to his office, but there are more doors in there.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Have a seat Grace.

He gestures at a seat, Grace sits down at once. He sits opposite her and picks up his pen.

DOCTOR NATHAN (CONT'D)

So Grace, do you have any questions for me about the process?

GRACE

(nervously)

Will it hurt?

DOCTOR NATHAN

Well Grace External radiotherapy involves using a machine called a linear accelerator, which focuses high-energy radiation beams onto the area that requires treatment.

(MORE)

DOCTOR NATHAN (CONT'D)  
The process itself is completely  
painless, which I'm sure you'll be  
glad to hear.

Grace nods as Doctor Nathan talks.

GRACE  
OK Doctor, and will it be you  
carrying out the session?

DOCTOR NATHAN  
It will be our medical oncologist,  
Doctor Charles, he will be the one  
performing the session, but I will  
also be present to monitor your  
progress and ensure that  
everything goes to plan.

GRACE  
OK.

DOCTOR NATHAN  
Do you have any more questions  
Grace?

GRACE  
No, I've already done quite a lot  
of reading, so I know a lot about  
the potential side effects, the  
nausea, the hair loss etc....

DOCTOR NATHAN  
OK Grace, well we are going to  
begin your Radiotherapy now, with  
a view to helping prolong your  
life as much as possible. Do you  
have any final questions before we  
begin?

GRACE  
No I think want to just begin now.

DOCTOR NATHAN  
OK Grace, please come with me and  
I will introduce you to Doctor  
Charles.

Doctor Nathan stands and opens a door. Doctor Charles is  
stood waiting to welcome Grace. She looks around the room,  
there is a radiotherapy machine stationed in the middle. A  
big scary looking machine, Grace is nervous.

DOCTOR NATHAN (CONT'D)  
This is Doctor Charles.

Doctor Charles reaches his hand out and shakes Grace's hand.

DOCTOR CHARLES

Nice to meet you Grace, how are you feeling?

GRACE

Hello Doctor, I - I'm OK.

DOCTOR CHARLES

Don't be nervous Grace, try and relax, it's going to be very simple and painless for you, don't be put off by the way it looks, I trust that Doctor Nathan has explained everything to you about how the process works?

GRACE

Yes, he has.

Doctor Charles walks over to the radiotherapy machine, and puts his hand on it.

DOCTOR CHARLES

OK Grace, would you please lay down for me, and we can begin the treatment.

Grace climbs onto the machine with the assistance of Doctor Charles, and lays gazing up at the ceiling expressionlessly.

DOCTOR CHARLES (CONT'D)

OK Grace if you have any pain, or issues during the treatment please say so, and I will stop the machine immediately.

GRACE

OK Doctor.

A very BRIGHT light comes on and Grace slowly closes her eyes.

INT. DOCTORS RECEPTION - CONTINUED

Michael is sat in the reception playing with Bella, he picks up a child's book and starts to read it.

MICHAEL

(Softly)

And so the small fluffy kitten got into her nice warm bed by the fire, and drifted off into the land of dreams.

The receptionist looks over at Michael in admiration.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE — CONTINUED

Grace exits the room with Doctor Nathan and Doctor Charles.

DOCTOR CHARLES

That went perfectly Grace, well done, Doctor Nathan will sit you down for a chat and to answer any more questions you have, and I'll see you again at the same time next week.

GRACE

OK Doctor, thank you for that.

DOCTOR CHARLES

You're most welcome Grace.

Doctor Nathan leads Grace back to the seat they started in.

DOCTOR NATHAN

So, Grace, how was that for you?

GRACE

Painless, I didn't feel anything, I was really nervous about it as well, so I'm pretty glad it all went OK.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Oh good, I'm really pleased to hear you say that. So I want to talk to you about, is our other option we can include in your treatment programme; Chemotherapy.

GRACE

(cutting in)

No, I don't want that, I've done a lot of research online and it seems there are so many side effects, perhaps if there was a chance of the cancer being cured I would consider it, but I don't want to put my body through any unnecessary suffering.

DOCTOR NATHAN

OK Grace, like I say it is completely your choice, I will get you a booklet with all the information on it, just in case you were to change your mind. And in the meantime, I want you to take a multi-vitamin and iron supplement, I will write you out a prescription that you can take to the pharmacy, these will just help support your immune system and we will try to keep you as strong and healthy as possible.

Grace nods in agreement.

INT. DOCTORS WAITING ROOM – CONTINUED

Grace comes down the stairs. Michael stands as soon as he notices her and looks apprehensive.

MICHAEL

How did it go?

GRACE

It went OK actually, I didn't feel any pain or anything, so I'm quite relieved, I'd been having terrible dreams about it.

MICHAEL

Aw, I'm glad it went well.

Grace steps over and looks at Bella.

GRACE

And how was my little Bella?

MICHAEL

She's been delightful, such a little angel.

GRACE

What a good girl you are.

Michael notices how Grace's eyes light up whenever she is around Bella.

Grace thanks the receptionist, as they leave.

MICHAEL

So, what now?

GRACE

Well I'm just going to go back home, I have a few things to do around the house.

MICHAEL

Why don't we go and catch a movie? That stuff can wait can't it?

GRACE

Well, I'm not sure, I, I...

MICHAEL

(Interrupting)  
Come on... my treat!

Grace seems to consider it momentarily.

GRACE

Well... go on then.

Michael is very happy at this, which is quite obvious by looking at the grin on his face.

INT. MOVIE THEATRES – LATE EVENING

Michael and Grace are stood in the foyer, Bella is asleep in Grace's arms. They both stare at list of films and show times.

MICHAEL

So, what do you want to see?

GRACE

Anything, I don't mind.

MICHAEL

What about 'Sing'? Bella will love that.

GRACE

Yeah... sure.

MICHAEL.

Perfect OK wait here while I get  
the tickets.

Grace speedily manoeuvres her arms around Bella to get to  
her purse.

GRACE

Here, wait...

MICHAEL

(Interrupting)

Grace, don't insult me, I said  
it's my treat.

GRACE

Are you sure? It's no problem at  
all.

MICHAEL

I'm sure, wait here, I'll be back  
in a minute.

GRACE

Alright then.

Michael walks off.

Grace notices a bench on the side, where she heads to sit  
down.

Shortly after Michael returns holding a large bucket of  
popcorn, a large drink and several packs of candy. Grace's  
eyes light up.

MICHAEL

I didn't know what you'd like...

GRACE

Oh Michael, you're too generous,  
you need to stop this!

MICHAEL

Don't be so silly Grace, you're an  
amazing woman, I love spending  
time with you, it's the least I  
can do to be in yours and Bella's  
company.

(A Beat)

Come on, we'd better go and get a  
seat, it's about to start.

Grace gets up and follows Michael.

CUT TO:



INT. MOVIE SCREEN – LATE AFTERNOON

They sit while the movie's playing. They're sharing the popcorn. Grace picks up the drink and has a sip.

Michael turns toward her as she does so, and makes a face at her, the cute little face he seems to keep doing. She seems to like it, and often gets a little shy in response.

Michael reaches out his arm and gently put's it around her shoulders. Grace is a little nervous, after a moment she slowly tilts her head towards him.

EXT. MOVIE THEATRE CAR PARK – EVENING

MICHAEL

So did you enjoy the movie?

GRACE

I did, I think that Bella enjoyed it even more though!

MICHAEL

Aw, yeah her little eyes did light up when all the songs came on didn't they, such a little cutey pie!

They arrive at his car.

EXT. MICHAELS CAR – LATE EVENING

Michael has pulled up outside Grace's house. They sit awkwardly silent for a moment.

MICHAEL

So... I've had a really nice time tonight.

GRACE

Me too, thank you, it's been nice to get out and do something.

MICHAEL

Yeah, I bet... We should do this again some time.

GRACE

(A beat)

Yeah, I'd like that.

MICHAEL

I have to go away for work for 2 weeks, but when I get back, we'll arrange something.

Grace looks disappointed.

GRACE

Oh, yeah that sounds good.

Grace unbuckles her seat belt and gets out of the car, she opens the backdoor and takes Bella out.

MICHAEL

Take care, if you need anything, let me know and I'll be there.

GRACE

Thanks.

Grace pushes the car door closed and walks away towards her house.

INT. RADIOTHERAPY ROOM — MORNING

Silent scene. Grace lays on the bed in the Radiotherapy room, gazing blankly up towards the ceiling, Doctor Charles is stood beside her muddling with some controls on the machine, a bright white light shines and fills the screen.

FLASH CUT:

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM — NIGHT

Bella lays asleep in her crib beside Grace's bed. Grace wakes up suddenly and runs to the bathroom, we hear her vomiting.

FLASH CUT:

INT. GRACE'S BATHROOM — MORNING

Grace stands in the shower washing her hair, a large clump of hair comes out. She looks horrified, she throws it off her hand and grabs another portion of her hair, again more hair comes out.

INT. DOCTOR NATHANS OFFICE — MORNING

DOCTOR NATHAN

So what are your main concerns  
Grace?

GRACE

Well I've been vomiting every  
night, I can't sleep properly, I  
constantly feel ill, my hair is  
falling out, I hate it.

DOCTOR NATHAN

Ah, yes Grace, these are all very  
common side effects of the  
Radiotherapy treatment.

GRACE

I want to stop treatment. I can't  
carry on like this, I want to  
enjoy the little time I have left,  
not be stuck in here every week,  
vomit every night, be crippled by  
pain just for the hope of adding a  
few extra weeks onto my life. If  
this is how I am going to be I may  
as well just drop dead now.

Grace is very agitated, she is getting emotional and is  
ranting at Doctor Nathan.

DOCTOR NATHAN

(Calmly)

OK Grace, just take a deep breath,  
that's not a problem, Radiotherapy  
isn't for everyone, some people  
prefer to refuse all treatment, in  
this case we focus on pain relief,  
and ensuring those that choose  
this path can have the best  
quality of life possible.

GRACE

Yes Doctor that is what I want.

DOCTOR NATHAN

I can fully appreciate that, I  
will let Doctor Charles know of  
your decision, so that we can  
focus on supporting you in every  
way that we can.

GRACE

I appreciate that Doctor.

DOCTOR NATHAN

I will prescribe you with some anti sickness tablets, they should help stop the vomiting, and hopefully now that you have decided to stop treatment, those symptoms may begin to ease up a little.

GRACE

I do hope so, but what about my hair, will it continue to fall out?

DOCTOR NATHAN

It's hard to say Grace, with already having had the 2 Radiotherapy sessions, people's bodies react differently, we need to try and manage expectations. If it becomes something that you feel is affecting you, we do have places that specialise in this, so I can certainly get you the details for that, if it is something you would like.

GRACE

Oh, please do Doctor, just in case.

INT. GRACE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Grace sits watching television with Bella. There's doorbell rings. Grace pauses. She walks over, opens the door, and there stands Michael. holding a carrier bag and a bunch of 12 beautiful bright red roses.

MICHAEL

Surprise!

GRACE

Michael? what are you doing here?  
I thought you were working?

Grace is caught off guard, she's in her lounging clothes with minimal make up on, not the normal way Michael sees her.

MICHAEL

I finished early, so I thought I'd come and surprise you, these are for you.

He holds up the 12 roses. Grace blushes. She takes the roses out of his hands and admires them.

GRACE

Oh, thank you, I love roses,  
they're beautiful.

MICHAEL

I thought I could make us a bite  
to eat as well if you're hungry?

Grace nods.

GRACE

Erm ok... You'll have to excuse  
the mess, we weren't expecting any  
visitors.

Michael follows Grace into the living room, his eyes light up when Bella seems excited to see him.

MICHAEL

Hello Bella, how's my little  
angel?

Grace watches on in delight as Bella wiggles around in excitement.

Michael places down the carrier bag and pulls out 2 ready meals.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I hope you weren't expecting  
anything fancy!

Grace chuckles.

GRACE

(Still laughing)

No, it's fine, I'm used to them  
now.

MICHAEL

Perfect, I got, some spaghetti  
bolognese, and some macaroni  
cheese... They're kind of Italian,  
right?

GRACE

Yeah sure, I guess so.

MICHAEL

See, I remembered, your favourite.

Michael walks over and pops them into the microwave.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

In 7 minutes, we'll be enjoying the delicious Italian cuisine, fresh from the microwave, it will be like being in Italy.

GRACE

I'd better set the table.

Grace rushes over to the cupboard and grabs 2 plates and some cutlery. She sets the table whilst Michael stands and watches.

MICHAEL

Which would you like?

GRACE

Surprise me!

Michael walks over and places the 2 dishes in the centre of the table.

MICHAEL

Do you know what... we'll share.

Michael places some from each dish onto Grace's plate before doing the same to his.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Whoa, would you taste that?! Who needs fancy restaurants, huh?

GRACE

(Sarcastically)

Right.

MICHAEL

So how have you been, it seems like ages since I last saw you.

GRACE

Yeah, I've been good, I decided to stop the Radiotherapy treatments.

MICHAEL

Oh... how comes?

GRACE

Well I was starting to feel really ill with them, there were a lot of side effects, I didn't really think it would be worth it, I'd rather enjoy the time I have left with Bella.

MICHAEL

Yeah, if it was making things difficult it seems as though it's the best thing for you.

GRACE

Yeah.

MICHAEL

Any luck with the adoption agencies?

GRACE

Oh yes, I forgot to say, I'm going in for a meeting on Friday, they may have found a family for Bella, so I'm going to go and see what they're like and whether I think they would be a good match for her.

MICHAEL

Oh that's great, I'm sure they'll be lovely.

GRACE

Oh boy, I hope so.

They both stop eating.

MICHAEL

You finished?

GRACE

Yeah, thank you.

Michael picks up the plates.

GRACE (CONT'D)

No, no it's fine I'll do that, you go and sit down.

Michael proceeds to clear the plates off into the trash and puts them into the dishwasher.

MICHAEL

Sorted.

GRACE

Such a gentleman aren't you!

MICHAEL

That's me.

Michael seems to lap up the satisfaction of the first kind of compliment Grace has ever paid him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michael and Grace sitting on the sofa, Grace is holding Bella as she wriggles around trying to get free. She places Bella onto the floor.

GRACE

Go on then baby, show Michael what you've learned to do.

Bella starts crawling around on the floor, Michael looks very impressed by this, she's unstoppable, crawling around in circles like she's on some kind of mission.

MICHAEL

Oh wow, look at her go!

GRACE

I know! I can't believe she's going to be 6 months old next week, it's all gone so fast.

MICHAEL

Yeah, it's amazing how time flies.

Michael kneels down and plays with Bella, he follows her around the room crawling after her. Grace watches on as the pair enjoy their time together. After a while Michael picks her up and sits her back down on his lap.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

She's all tired out now, poor thing!

GRACE

Yes, she will be, it's past her bedtime.

MICHAEL

(To Bella)

Uh oh, looks like someone's gotta go to sleepy pies.

Grace takes her out of Michael's arms.

GRACE

Yeah, I'd better go and put her to bed, do you mind?



MICHAEL  
Don't be silly.

Grace walks off to put her into bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They sit watching a film, Grace is laid sideways onto Michael's chest, he has his arm around her.

Grace struggles to stay awake, she briefly dozes off, Michael looks down at her.

Grace wakes back up momentarily to find Michael gazing at her.

GRACE  
Oh sorry, I can hardly stay awake.

MICHAEL  
You're a cute sleeper... in a non-creepy way.

GRACE  
Ha! I think we'd better call it a night, otherwise I won't be up in the morning.

Grace sits up.

MICHAEL  
Sure thing.

Michael stands and prepares to leave, Grace follows him to the door in silence. They stand at the door, their eyes meet in the dimly lit corridor, Grace give Michael a hug, as she pulls away HE KISSES HER, Grace doesn't pull away.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
I'll see you soon.

Grace doesn't reply. She opens the door and closes it behind him. Standing behind the door, she looks up biting her lip as she holds back a thrilling grin.

INT. ADOPTION CENTRE - EARLY AFTERNOON

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

So thanks' for coming Grace. I'm really pleased to tell you that we've found a potential family for Bella. So I'll start by telling you a little about them.

GRACE

That's awesome.

Grace seems keen to find out more.

The adoption lady pulls out a file. She pulls out a picture of a middle aged Caucasian couple with a 3 - 4 year old child, standing on a bridge overlooking a river, the sun is shining, it seems like the perfect happy family photo.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

So this is Caroline and Peter, They're both in their early 30's. As you can see in the picture they already have a child called Louise, they adopted her just over 2 years ago, from a young lady who wasn't able to look after her due to personal problems.

Grace looks at the photo. The lady notices that Grace seems to be lost in thought.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT (CONT'D)

Is everything OK Grace?

GRACE

(a beat)

Sorry, yes, it's just all becoming so real to me, thinking about another family bringing up Bella, I won't even be here to watch, I just want the best you know.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

Of course, Grace.

GRACE

So, what do they do?

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

Well Caroline is a part time nurse, she spends most of her time looking after the little one, and Peter is an architect, so very professional and financially secure.

GRACE

Right, well would it be possible to meet them? I'd like to spend a little time getting to know them, before I decide if they're right to bring up my Bella.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

Yes, this can be arranged, I spoke to them yesterday, and they would be willing to fly over for a few weeks to spend some time getting to know you and Bella.

GRACE

(Interrupting)

Fly? Are they not local?

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

Unfortunately not, they're from Brisbane, in Australia.

Grace looks very displeased at this news.

GRACE

No, no I want her to stay here, I've nothing against other countries at all but I need her to be here, close to me, so she can see me, I want her to know who I am, and visit me, I'm sorry but no I just can't.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

I understand where you're coming from Grace, the issue is we don't currently have any applicants for adoption anywhere near the state, so we've had to look a lot further out. Perhaps if you met them you may feel differently once you get to know them?

GRACE

No, with no disrespect I wouldn't want to waste their time, I'm sure they're a lovely couple, and I really do hope they find what they're looking for, but Bella must stay here, close to me.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

OK Grace, I fully understand, I'm really sorry that it's not what you were hoping for, we'll continue looking and contact you again as soon as we can.

GRACE

OK, I appreciate the effort, and please do call me as soon as you find a family closer to home.

They both stand and shake hands as Grace prepares to leave her office.

ADOPTION ASSISTANT

We will do, thanks a lot for coming.

INT. GRACE'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Grace is stood at the mirror combing her hair, it's getting visibly thinner, as she combs it, large clumps are FALLING OUT.

She throws her comb onto the floor in anger. Opens up the cabinet and pulls out a set of hair clippers, she stares blankly at herself in the mirror. She switches on the clippers.

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Grace sits on her bed, Bella is beside her in her Crib. All of Grace's hair is GONE. She touches her bald head and looks reflectively at the wall, she's distressed, regretful.

GRACE

(Under her breath)

What have I done?

She glances over at Bella, who is gazing back at her looking a little confused.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I know baby, mommy has lost all of her hair.

INT. GRACE'S LOUNGE — AFTERNOON

Grace sits at the table feeding Bella. The sound of a horn is heard outside, Grace looks up, and then carries on feeding Bella. The horn sounds again.

GRACE  
(softly)  
Go away.

There's a loud knock at the door. Grace stands up and walks over.

Michael is stood outside. He can see her shadow in the glass of the door, but she doesn't open it.

MICHAEL  
Hey Grace, you ready to go for lunch?

GRACE  
No, I can't come today, I'm sorry.

MICHAEL  
What, what's wrong?

GRACE  
Nothing, I'm fine I just can't come.

MICHAEL  
Open the door, we don't have to go anywhere if you don't want to.

GRACE  
I can't I don't want you to see me, I look like a monster.

MICHAEL  
Grace, don't be silly... just open the door.

Michael stands anxiously as a few moments pass. The door slowly opens, Grace is stood there, with tears in her eyes.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Oh Grace, don't cry, you look more beautiful than ever.

GRACE  
(Tearfully)  
I look like a monster.

MICHAEL

Don't be so silly, you're beautiful, on the inside and on the outside.

GRACE

I can't go out like this.

MICHAEL

Can I come inside?

GRACE

I guess so.

Grace walks away, Michael follows her in and closes the door behind him.

Grace sits at the table and continues to feed Bella, Michael enters and sits beside her. He places his hand on her leg.

MICHAEL

Grace, you really are such a special lady, I wish you'd realise that, you're perfect just the way you are. Each time I see you, you get more and more beautiful, no matter what happens you'll always be beautiful, just remember that.

Grace doesn't seem convinced.

GRACE

(a beat)

Thanks Michael. Can we just stay here for today?

MICHAEL

I'm happy doing whatever makes you happy.

GRACE

I'm going to create a page online about Bella, I'm going to take it into my own hands and find her a family, the adoption agencies are useless. I'll be waiting forever before they find what I'm looking for, you can stay and help me set it up if you'd like?

MICHAEL

Yeah, sure I'd love to help.

GRACE

Great, I'll go and get my laptop.

Michael picks up Bella and plays with her as Grace places her laptop on the table. She opens it up. She is already on a website where she has begun creating a page for Bella.

GRACE (CONT'D)

OK, so this is what I have so far.

Camera focuses onto the screen.

GRACE (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Hello, my name is Grace, I'm 36 years old and the lucky mother of Bella, my beautiful little angel. Bella is just over 6 months old now, her father passed away just after she was born, and I recently found out that I have stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, that has also spread to my brain. I only have around 3 - 6 months left to live. I have learning to come to terms with this, but what I cannot come to terms with is the thought of leaving Bella behind alone. She is the most beautiful, lovely baby girl anyone could ever hope for, she is perfect in every way and deserves the world. We currently live in Charleston, South Carolina. I am looking for a loving and caring couple or family close to this area to adopt her. You must love children and have a safe and secure happy household. I am looking for parents to bring her up with more love and care than any child could ever want. If you believe this is you and you would like to come and meet us, please contact me on the number below, I eagerly await your responses, and will be happy to consider and meet anyone who would be happy to bring up my beautiful little Bella.

MICHAEL

(softly)

It's perfect.

GRACE  
Do I need to add anything?

MICHAEL  
No, it's perfect as it is.

GRACE  
OK then, I need to add some photos  
of her.

Grace opens a file filled with photos of her and Bella, she and Michael look through them all and carefully select 5 photos that Grace uploads to the site.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
OK well here goes.

Grace clicks 'Go live' and leans back into her seat, letting out a sigh of relief.

2 MONTHS LATER.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - MORNING

Bella, who is now 8 and a half months old, lays asleep in her car seat. Grace looks tired.

GRACE  
We've been driving forever! Where  
are you taking us?

MICHAEL  
We're almost there now, just a few  
more moments, you're going to love  
it I promise.

Grace closes her eyes and puts her head back.

CROSSFADE:

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
(Quietly heard in the  
background)  
Wake up Grace, we're here.

Grace slowly opens her eyes. Her eyes fly open widely instantly after she realises where they are.

GRACE  
OH MY GOD, NO WAY?!

They have arrived at Disneyworld's Magic Kingdom, Orlando, Florida, the place Grace has wanted to visit all her life.



Grace lets out a squeak of excitement as Michael watches on happily. She turns around and gently touches the arm of a sleeping Bella.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Bella, Bella wake up baby, we're  
in Disneyworld! Look, we've always  
wanted to come here!

Bella looks up, only just waking up she looks a little perplexed as to what all the excitement going on is. However, Grace cannot contain hers, we've never seen her so excited.

MICHAEL  
Are you happy?

GRACE  
Yes, yes! Thank you so much! I  
feel like a kid in a candy store  
right now!

Michael laughs as he enters the parking lot.

MICHAEL  
Now the hard part, we gotta try  
and find parking!

Grace opens her bag and fiddles around, she pulls out a disabled badge.

GRACE  
I wondered when this would come in  
handy! There's finally a perk to  
having cancer!

Michael looks a little shocked at Grace's frank comment. He pulls into an empty disabled parking bay close to the entrance. Grace places the disabled badge on the cars dashboard before hopping out of the car and picking up Bella.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Let's go!

Grace pulls Michael as she rushes over to the park entrance.

EXT. DISNEYWORLD — LATE MORNING

Grace and Michael have just entered the park, he places the tickets into his pocket. In the view we can see the beautiful Disney castle as Grace skips on the road leading

to it, pointing up and looking at Bella, Michael seems to be struggling to keep up.

GRACE

Whoa, look at that Bella, is that where you'll live when you're older?

MICHAEL

Well she is a little Princess!

As they walk up to the castle Mickey and Minnie Mouse stroll across, Grace can barely hold back the excitement as she lets out a little scream and rushes over towards them.

GRACE

Look Bella, who's that? It's Minnie and Micky Mouse!

Grace rushes over and hugs them, Bella seems to be really enjoying herself. Grace and Michael stand together with them as a photographer takes a photo using Michael's Phone.

MICHAEL

Thank you.

Micky and Minnie mouse wave at them as they walk away.

MICHEL

Wow, did little Bella like that? Yeah.

Michael looks up at Grace

MICHAEL

I think you're enjoying it more than she is!

GRACE

Ha! Maybe a little! Come on, let's go on a ride.

Grace switches directions and pulls Michael speedily along with her as she rushes over to find the attractions.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DISNEYWORLD - CONTINUOUS

Grace and Michael are seated on the carriage of the ride 'Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin'. Grace is looking around full of laughter as they shoot things around them, Michael has Bella tightly in his arms as they hold the laser gun together.

GRACE  
I love this!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DISNEYWORLD - CONTINUOUS

Michael and Grace sit in a carriage on 'Dumbo the Flying Elephant'. As it goes around and around Bella makes sounds of excitement as she sits tightly in Grace's arms.

MICHAEL  
WOOHOO!

They appear to be having the perfect 'family' moment together.

The ride comes to a stop and they exit.

GRACE  
That was so fun! Bella loved it.

MICHAEL  
I know, aw did you see her little face, she's so cute!

GRACE  
Next, next, next!

MICHAEL  
Come on then!

They rush off together in search of the next ride.

INT. PERFORMANCE - AFTERNOON

Grace and Michael sit together with Bella, watching one of the magical live action shows. Michael is holding a big bag of candy floss. He tears off a large chunk and pushes it into Grace's mouth. She laughs as she tries to chew it.

INT. CASEY'S CORNER RESTAURANT - LATE AFTERNOON

Grace sit's at the table, eating her fries, she also has a half-eaten hot dog. Michael sit's opposite her, he has fries also and a half eaten cheeseburger. Bella is sat beside him in her high chair as Michael feeds her a jar of baby banana pudding, with her favourite pink plastic spoon, she seems to be really enjoying it.

MICHAEL  
Is that yummy?

Bella wriggles around in excitement as Grace watches over.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Yeah it is, mmmm.

Michael pops another spoon into Bella's mouth and turns towards Grace.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
We'd better start heading back soon, it's a long drive.

Grace doesn't seem impressed.

GRACE  
No! Let's stay, 1 more ride please?!

Grace sounds like a child, refusing to go home from the funfair. Michael finds this mildly amusing.

MICHAEL  
(chuckling)  
OK, go on then.

EXT. ASTRO ORBITOR RIDE — CONTINUOUS

Michael is sat at the back of the cart, Grace directly in front of him holding Bella. It's a little tight for room in the cart. But neither of them seem to mind as Michael holds onto Grace.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAR PARK — EVENING

Michael and Grace walk towards the car, Grace holds a sleeping Bella in her arms.

GRACE  
Michael?

MICHAEL  
Yes?

GRACE  
Thank you so much for today, I really have loved every second of it.

MICHAEL

No, thank you Grace, you've truly given me a day to remember for the rest of my life, just seeing how happy you and Bella were today, it means the world to me.

GRACE

You're a special person Michael.

Grace seems a little down at the thought of this having to end.

INT. GRACE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Michael stands waiting in the room, Grace enters the room holding a baby monitor.

GRACE

She's all tucked up in her new bedroom.

MICHAEL

I'd better get going then.

Michael picks up his jacket, ready to leave. Grace places her hand on his shoulder.

GRACE

Stay.

Michael turns around, and looks at her.

MICHAEL

(a beat)

Are you sure?

GRACE

Yes stay, I don't want to be alone tonight.

MICHAEL

If you're sure?

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michael and Grace lay in bed talking, Grace lays flat on her back. Michael lays on his side looking over at her.

MICHAEL

You're so beautiful Grace.

Michael holds her face and gently rubs his thumb back and forth.

Michael slowly leans in and begins to kiss her, she kisses back.

FADE TO:

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM – MORNING

Grace wakes up in bed alone. She looks beside her where Michael was, she wonders where he is.

She puts on her lilac silk bathrobe and steps out of bed. She walks down the stairs and enters the lounge / kitchen area.

Bella is sat at the table in her high chair, she watches on at Michael who is stood making bacon and pancakes.

MICHAEL  
Morning, beautiful, Bella told me  
that you like pancakes with bacon  
and syrup.

GRACE  
Oh did she now?

MICHAEL  
Yep.

Grace chuckles as she joins Bella at the table.

GRACE  
Morning baby, did you have a nice  
sleep?

Bella sits still looking at her, there's no response, as Bella can't talk yet. However, she does make a little sound. Grace opens her laptop and checks her emails.

MICHAEL  
Any luck?

Grace looks disappointed.

GRACE  
No, nobody's responded yet.

Michael doesn't look very disappointed by this news. He carries over 2 plates stacked with fresh fluffy pancakes and crispy bacon, covered in lashings of thick syrup.

MICHAEL

Here you go, get that down you.

They both tuck in.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

They're good pancakes. Even if I do say so myself!

GRACE

They are, you didn't have to go through all this trouble.

MICHAEL

Trouble? Nah, it's nothing.

Michael is eager to say something.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

So... Grace... I've been thinking.

GRACE

About?

MICHAEL

Well, I thought, maybe perhaps I could adopt Bella... I mean, I love spending time with her, I'd do anything for her...

GRACE

(angrily)

No, no, why would you even think that. She needs a mother and a father, you can't possibly...

Grace is angry, but Michael can't seem to understand why.

(MICHAEL)

(Interrupting)

Grace, calm down, I think I would...

Grace is shaking with anger.

GRACE

No, don't tell me to calm down, who do you think you are.

Grace leaps up out of her chair, Bella bursts into tears, she knows something is wrong.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry.

GRACE  
(Cutting in)  
No Michael, how dare you, you're  
not Brad and you never will be.

She takes a deep breath.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Get out of my house.  
(Raising her voice)  
Get out of my house now!

Michael is completely taken aback by this response, he thought she would have appreciated this after all the time he's spent with them. He stands up and walks to the door.

MICHAEL  
Look OK, I'll go, I'm sorry I even  
mentioned it, I'm sorry that I  
care for you both so much! Just  
forget it.

Michael storms towards the door and slams in behind him. Grace breaks down in tears. She sits and throws her head into her hands as she sobs. Bella is screaming.

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Grace lays alone, still slightly teary, she looks lonely, deep in reflection.

After some time, dwelling, Grace picks up her phone and sends a text message to Michael. 'I'm sorry'.

She stares at her phone screen. She waits and waits, but nothing happens.

INT. GRACE – MORNING

Grace wakes up, she grabs her phone, there are no messages.

Bella starts to cry, Grace gets out of bed and walks into Bella's room, she lifts her out of her crib and gently rocks her.

GRACE  
(Softly)  
Shhh, baby, it's OK, mummy's here.

Grace walks downstairs with Bella, she sits her in her high chair, walks over to the kitchen and starts fiddling around with items on the side.



KNOCK KNOCK.

Grace Immediately stops what she's doing and turns her head.

MICHAEL

(In the background)

Grace!

(a beat)

I'm sorry... I want to talk to you, I'll wait here, if you want to talk please come to the door, if you don't I'll leave, I understand.

Grace looks relieved. After a few moments she heads towards the door. She puts her hand on the lock and pauses just as she's about to open it. She closes her eyes and looks down at the floor. She takes a deep breath and opens the door.

GRACE

I'm sorry.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry too. I can't even begin to imagine what you're going through and I didn't mean to offend you.

GRACE

No, don't apologise, I appreciate the thought behind it. Come in.

Michael appears relieved at and quickly follows her in. Bella's eyes light up as soon as she sees Michael, as do his when he sees her. It's as if there's a special connection between them.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Coffee?

MICHAEL

Please.

Michael sits down besides Bella as Grace walks into the kitchen.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hello Bella, I missed you.

Bella looks as though she is trying very hard to get her first word out.

BELLA

D... D.

Grace hears her and comes running out of the kitchen.

GRACE  
What did you say baby?

Bella points towards Michael.

BELLA  
D...Dada.

Grace is wide mouthed in shock, she looks at Michael who is equally in shock at that being Bella's first word.

GRACE  
Oh my little baby! She said her  
first word, I can't believe it!

Michael almost seems to be slightly panicking. He turns towards Bella.

MICHAEL  
Say Mumma... Mumma.

Bella does not repeat any words, she sits happily staring back at the pair of them staring at her.

Grace sits down besides Michael. There's a temporary silence, Grace rubs her fingers slowly from her nose up to the top of her forehead and then turns to Michael.

GRACE  
OK.

MICHAEL  
OK? OK what?

Grace seems to come to some sudden realisation, as if she has just thought of the best idea in the world, she seems to have been overcome with joy.

GRACE  
OK yes... Michael, I would love for  
you to adopt Bella, and bring her  
up, I can see it in her eyes how  
much she idolises you, and I love..

Grace stops talking. Michael's face trembles with emotion.

MICHAEL  
Really?

Grace nods.

GRACE  
Yes, really.

Michael leaps out of his seat and hugs Grace, he kisses her and picks up Bella.

MICHAEL

Oh my God! Thank you Grace, I promise I'm going to do everything I possibly can for her, she's gonna grow up with everything she could ever need, everything she wants, and more.

He kisses Bella softly on her head and they stand united as a family.

FADE TO BLACK:

An original song filled with emotion starts, and we see a compilation of the time Grace and Michael spend together with Bella over the next 3 months.

FLASH CUT:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY — EVENING

Grace runs up and throws a ball towards the pins, while Michael and Bella watch on from the sofa's. Grace only manages to knock down 1 pin, Michael cheers and holds up Bella's arms as she watches on with excitement. Grace gives Michael a sarcastic look as she walks back over towards them and touches Bella's face.

FLASH CUT:

EXT. ZOO — AFTERNOON

Michael and Grace are stood by the elephants, Grace holds up Bella who points happily towards the elephant, Michael stands back and takes a photo. They all run over to the giraffes and Grace points up towards it, Bella looks up and squints from the sun in her eyes. They all stand together and take a selfie with the Giraffes.

FLASH CUT:

INT. FROZEN YOGURT STORE — EVENING

Grace and Michael sit together at a table, both with huge tubs of frozen yogurt, each covered with lashings of different topping. Michael leans over and steals a spoonful of Grace's. She playfully opens her mouth in shock and raises her hand as if she's going to hit him. Bella sits in

her high chair with her own mini tub, and frozen yogurt all around her mouth.

FLASH CUT:

INT. BELLA'S BEDROOM — NIGHT

Grace and Michael sit on the floor beside Bella's crib. Grace's head is leant against Michael's shoulder. He is sitting reading Bella a goodnight story.

FLASH CUT:

EXT. BEACH — EVENING

Michael and Grace walk hand in hand along a path by the sand, off towards the sunset, pushing Bella along in her pushchair as the song comes to an end.

FADE IN:

NEXT SCENE.

2 Months later.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM — EVENING

Grace is laid in her hospital bed, she is worse for wear, it appears her time is about to come to an end. Michael is sitting closely beside her, holding her hand as tightly as he can, Bella is asleep in-between them, laid against Grace. Michael looks distressed, but is covering it the best he can to remain strong for Grace.

GRACE

(Softly)

Promise me you'll take good care of her?

MICHAEL

I'll spend every passing moment doing everything I can for her Grace I promise.

GRACE

Remember all the things we spoke about... her education, I want her to graduate, and get a good job.

MICHAEL

I remember everything... all the things you want for her.

Grace struggles to take another breath.

GRACE

I love you so much my precious  
little Bella, And I love you  
Michael, thanks for being there  
for me.

MICHAEL

I love you so, so much Grace,  
you've made me happier than I ever  
thought I could be. You're so  
perfect in every way.

Grace lays still, she doesn't respond. A high-pitched noise comes out of the machine beside her and the pulse machine drops to 0. Michael gazes up with a tear in his eyes.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Grace?

He lightly shakes her.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Grace? Grace...

PULL BACK:

He breaks down in tears leaning over her and holding her and Bella in his arms.

FADE IN:

21 Years later.

INT. GRADUATION CEREMONY – MORNING

A grand hall, filled with proud looking parents and students, everyone mingling together in and around their seats as some eyes look to the large centered stage. Black gowns and graduation hats everywhere.

Seated 3 rows from the front is Michael, now in his mid-50's, he is next to a pretty older lady, Karon who he has been married to for 15 years now. Also beside him are his 2 children, A 13-year-old Zach, and an 11-year-old Grace. A bright blue eyed young lady with light brown hair and subtle blonde highlights rushes over to hug Michael.

MICHAEL

Bella! You look stunning!

Bella smiles.

BELLA  
Aw, thanks dad.

KARON  
We're so proud of you sweetheart.

BELLA  
Thanks mom.

Bella hugs Karon.

BELLA (CONT'D)  
I'd better get going, they'll  
start calling us up soon!

Bella turns towards Zach and Grace.

BELLA (CONT'D)  
You two be good while I'm away!

They both look at each other and giggle, Bella touches them both on the head before walking away towards her seat on the other side of the room.

INT. GRADUATION STAGE – CONTINUOUS

A white-haired man stands on the stage behind a microphone, the dean of the university.

DEAN  
And it gives me great pleasure to  
introduce our next student.  
Graduating top of her class with a  
degree in elementary education,  
please put your hands together for  
Bella Johnson.

The crowd applaud. We see Michael and Karon who are absolutely chuffed to see Bella walk onto the stage. She shakes the dean's hand, he passes her a certificate. She steps up to the microphone.

BELLA  
(Addressing the  
audience)  
I'd like to take a moment to say  
thank you, to everyone who has  
helped me through, my friends, my  
tutors, my mom and dad who are  
here in the audience now, my  
little brother and sister who  
drive me a little crazy but keep  
me on my feet.

(MORE)

BELLA (CONT'D)

I love you all so dearly. And I want to just take a brief moment to thank my biological parents, to those who don't know me, my biological father died in the war when I was a month old, and my mother passed away from breast cancer just before my 1st birthday. But before she died...

We see photos of Michael and Bella together, after Grace had passed away, of him raising her, holding her up, taking her to different places, meeting Karon for the first time, holding her new born siblings, such beautiful photos.

BELLA (CONT'D)

(V.O)

It was her last wish that she find me a loving family to bring me up. Thank God she found my dad, Michael. He's been there for me through everything, I remember how he'd read me a bedtime story every night whilst I was growing up, and he'd always be there for me, to handle anything I needed help with, he's always stood by me and supported me in every way he could. So, thank you dad, for being my hero.

Bella steps down from the microphone, the crowd applaud loudly with many audience members giving her a standing ovation.

CROSSFADE:

EXT. CEMETARY — AFTERNOON

Bella and Michael walk arm in arm together and stop at a beautiful marble headstone. 'In loving memory of Grace Williams, a mother, a friend, a wife, and a beautiful soul.' Bella kneels down and places down a lovely bunch of 12 red roses and a Graduation photo of herself.

BELLA

Look mom, I done it.

Michael puts his arm around Bella and pulls her close to him. Michael tears up.

MICHAEL

You sure did honey. She would have  
been so proud, I promised her that  
this day would come, she'll be  
watching down on you in delight.  
I'm so proud of what a kind,  
beautiful young woman you've  
become.

Bella looks lovingly at her dad.

PULL BACK:

BELLA

Thanks dad, I love you.

MICHAEL

I love you too baby girl.

The End.