

FOR THE LOVE OF IT

Written by

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INT. JASON'S HOUSE. - JASON'S BEDROOM - DAY

A cluttered and messy teenage boy's bedroom. Piles of dirty clothes on the floor.

JASON, 15. Sits crossed legged in the middle of his bed and plays with his guitar. Handsome with long hair tied back, Jason focuses hard. He's good. The talent is obvious.

As he grows more and more into the song he smiles happily to himself, enjoying it.

Suddenly his bedroom door swings open and GREG, 48. Tall and grey stands in the doorway.

GREG

Do you want to knock that off?

Jason doesn't stop, keeps playing.

JASON

I need to practice.

GREG

Well maybe I don't want to listen to it?

JASON

I'm in my room.

GREG

Knock it off, I want you to stop playing.

Jason's smile has completely disappeared now.

JASON

No.

Greg backs out and slams the door shut.

Jason still plays, but he's sad. All the fun in it is gone now.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - STAIRCASE - DAY

LILLY, 16. Curly blonde hair and dressed in bright colourful clothes makes her way up to the very top of the staircase.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - JASON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jason still sits in the middle of his bed. Still with a hold of his guitar he plays around with it. Fine tuning.

Lilly sits down on the bed beside him. She takes out a pay cheque from her pocket and proudly shows it to him.

LILLY
My very first pay cheque. Finally
earning my own money.

He keeps playing with his guitar but looks over at her and smiles.

JASON
I haven't seen you this excited
before.

She waves the cheque in front of his face.

LILLY
It's my money and I can spend it on
whatever I want.

JASON
And what's that?

LILLY
I want to finally buy a car so that
we can go traveling together. Like
we always spoke about.

She lays down on the bed, holds the cheque out in front of her and looks up at it dreamily.

JASON
That's what you want to do?

LILLY
Freedom. It'll be so much fun. I
don't even have a car yet and I'm
already looking forward to it.

JASON
You're funny.

LILLY
Where do you want to go first?

JASON
I don't know.

LILLY
Don't think.

JASON
I can't think about anything other
than what I'm going to play.

The face drops, looking a little worried.

LILLY
You're still serious about that?

JASON

It's going to be my first music competition. But I'm deadly serious about doing it. I promised my mom before she died that I'd do it. And that's been three years already. So I've got to do it.

She sits up, puts the cheque away.

LILLY

And I can't change your mind?

JASON

No. I've got my heart set on it. And I can't think about anything else. I've got to do it.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jason makes himself something to eat and drink, raids the fridge.

Greg appears behind him, hits him playfully around the back of the head with a rolled up newspaper. Jason spins around to face him.

GREG

I've got you a job interview.

Jason's face lights up, smiling hopefully.

JASON

Really?

GREG

You said you wanted to start making your own money.

JASON

Yeah.

GREG

Well here's your chance.

JASON

Doing what?

Greg unrolls the newspaper, opens it to the job section. One of the jobs wanted has been circled several times with a red marker. None of the other jobs have been marked in this way.

GREG

You'll be working on the farm. Picking apples. Easy.

Jason takes the newspaper from him, gives it a read for himself. Seems optimistic.

JASON

Well yeah. It's going to have to wait a couple of weeks though. But that's something I can do. I do need to start making money.

Greg frowns.

GREG

You start this Saturday. You go up and talk to the owner. He promised me he'll put you straight to work. They're not going to wait around.

Jason turns his back to him. Discards the newspaper onto the kitchen counter.

JASON

Well they don't have to. Whatever. I don't care. I know you don't want to but I'm playing this music competition. And you're not going to stop me.

GREG

I'm trying to help you.

JASON

Well I'm not interested.

GREG

I'm your father. This is my job. You're going to listen to me.

Jason sits down at the table.

JASON

No.

Greg turns his back on Jason and moves towards the door.

GREG

You're already wasting your life fantasying about becoming a musician. And it's never going to happen.

Jason watches him go, shakes his head annoyed.

JASON

Why can't you just let me do this?

GREG

Whilst you've still got that damn guitar I'm never going to get through to you. It's got to go.

A look of horror fills Jason's face. Greg exits. Jason stands up from the table, yells out after him.

JASON

What did you just say? What did you mean by that?

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - STAIRCASE - DAY

Greg makes his way up the staircase. Jason chases after him.

JASON

What are you doing?

Greg speeds up. Now both of them are running.

GREG

Something I should have done a long time ago.

JASON

Stay out of my room.

Greg enters Jason's bedroom. Jason leaps in after him.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - JASON'S BEDROOM

Greg grabs a hold of the guitar and holds it up high above his head.

Jason rushes him.

JASON

Stop it, don't.

Jason tries to take the guitar from him, but he's not strong enough. Greg shrugs him off and smashes the guitar against the side of his bed. Shattering it into bits.

Jason cries out, devastated.

CUT TO:

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - JASON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jason's back on his own. He gathers up his smashed guitar and puts all the pieces into a suitcase. Keeps them together. He lets out a long deep breath, depressed.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Lilly waits on the bridge, looks down at the water below. Jason joins her, drops the suitcase down on the floor.

She looks over at him and smiles.

LILLY

Why here?

He kicks at the suitcase.

JASON

I thought about throwing this into the river. It seemed like a thing to do.

She kneels down and opens the suitcase, horrified to see the guitar in pieces inside it.

LILLY

Oh my god, what happened?

JASON

My Dad.

LILLY

Why?

JASON

He doesn't want me to play. This was his way of stopping me. And it's worked.

LILLY

What are you going to do now?

JASON

Give up.

He zips the suitcase closed, picks it up and goes to throw it off the bridge.

Lilly reacts fast, leaps in the way. Blocks him. Stops him from doing it.

LILLY

No. Don't.

Jason is still depressed, tears in his eyes.

JASON

It's just junk now.

LILLY

You said you wanted to play. It's what your future was going to be.
(MORE)

LILLY (CONT'D)

I put what I wanted us to do on pause so you could do it. Now you're telling me you're giving up?

JASON

I'm not giving up.

LILLY

Yes you are.

JASON

I've been stopped. That's different.

She reaches into her pocket and takes out her pay cheque. She tries to put it in his hand.

LILLY

I want to help you.

At first he refuses to take it.

JASON

What are you doing?

LILLY

Take it. Use it. Get your guitar fixed.

JASON

I can't take it.

LILLY

Yes you can.

She forces it in his hand, makes him take it.

His face lights up, suddenly feeling hopeful.

JASON

You really want to do this?

She smiles back at him.

LILLY

Fix it.

They come together and kiss.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Greg sits alone, newspaper laid out in front of him across the table and eats a bowl of pasta.

Jason enters with a guitar case in hand. He gestures to the table.

JASON
Can I join you?

Greg nods.

GREG
Sure.

Jason sits down. Lays the guitar case down on top of Greg's newspaper. Jason open it up. Inside is the repaired guitar. Jason swallows hard, nervous.

JASON
I got it repaired. It's a good as new.

Greg's eyes are heavy. He reaches out and closes the case.

GREG
I'm going to try one last time--

JASON
-- I need to do this for mom.

GREG
I don't want you to waste your life like she did.

Jason shakes his head, disappointed.

JASON
She didn't waste her life she loved music and she loved to play. She spent her whole life chasing a dream that was never going to happen. And you're going to end up doing the same. Mom taught me to play.

GREG
I asked her not to.

JASON
Before she died I promised her I'd play in front of an audience just once and I'm keeping that promise.

GREG
And there's nothing I can say, nothing I can do?

JASON
No. You've already tried. But I do want you to be there today. I want you to see me play. And I know mom would want you to see me play too.

INT. MUSIC VENUE - NIGHT

A hall, a small stage with a microphone. A crowd of on lookers has gathered. A drummer is up on the stage bashing out a heavy rock song. Except for himself no one else seems into it.

He finishes. Polite applause.

Next it's Jason's turn. He stands at the side of the stage with Lilly.

She encourages him to go on.

Jason stands in front of the microphone, nervous. He tunes his guitar, gets himself ready. He looks around. Scans the crowd of faces in front of him. Suddenly he sees Greg, Greg gives him a nod and between them they share a smile.

Jason takes down a big deep breath. He's filled with a sense of hope.

He begins to play. A fast paced flamingo style song. Lilly beams with pride. Greg even gets emotional. Clapping along to the song. The crowd are impressed too.

Jason is totally lost in the moment. Lost in the love of playing.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.