

Tears In Heaven

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FADE IN:

EXT. VILLAGE HALL - DAY

Situated in the middle of a vast field.

Well manicured grass stretches into the distance until it melds with the brilliant blue of the skies above.

The hall itself is small, made of large sandstone blocks and topped with a thatched roof.

Outside of it's closed acacia doors stands KEEPER (30's), an adonis of a man in a brilliant white suit.

Like a statue, Keeper watches the horizon until something grabs his attention, he leans forward for a better look at...

RICHARD (27) dashing towards him in a black suit and tie.

Richard nears the hall when Keeper glides preternaturally towards him and blocks his path.

KEEPER
How did you get here?

Richard quickly changes course and walks around him, heads for the hall--

--Keeper appears in front of him again. Richard stops.

KEEPER
You shouldn't be here.

Richard looks at Keeper, with swollen eyes and wet cheeks.

RICHARD
I need to see him.

KEEPER
Forbidden.

Richard takes a step closer, hands in prayer position.

RICHARD
Please, I need to--

KEEPER
For-bidd-en.

Once again tears begin to drip from Richards eyes, his face contorts with agony.

KEEPER

How did you get here?

Keeper looks down. A steady flow of blood trickles from under Richards sleeve, drips from his finger tips.

Keeper closes his eyes, pain etched on his face. He opens them, a tear trickles down his cheek.

He steps aside, gestures for Richard to go ahead.

Richard doesn't waste time, he sprints for the hall, bursts through the double doors into--

INT. VILLAGE HALL

Much bigger than the outside would suggest.

A large bouncy castle dominates the room, off to the side is a table full of all kinds of sugary treats.

A colorful "Happy birthday banner" hangs from the rafters and an array of other toys litter the space.

A YELL of joy rings through the hall as OSCAR (4) (In a dinosaur T-shirt with the word "Oscar-saurus") whizzes from behind the bouncy castle. He clambers onto it and bounces like it's the last party he'll go to.

Richard gasps, beams, puts his hands to his mouth not believing what he is seeing.

Oscar launches himself from the castle and to the food table, shoves handfuls of sweets into his ravenous gob.

RICHARD

Not too many of those, you'll ruin your dinner.

Startled, Oscar looks to Richard and SCREAMS in fright. He legs it to a nearby children's tipi and hides inside.

Richard rushes over.

RICHARD

Oscar, wait! It's OK, it's me!

Silence from the Tipi.

RICHARD

Oscar?

Richard rushes to the table, grabs some sweets.

RICHARD
Got some sweeties for you!

Oscar pokes his head through. Richard Beams.

OSCAR
Daddy says not to speak to strangers.
'specially if they have sweeties.

Richards heart sinks into his stomach.

Oscar crawls out of the Tipi, snatches the sweets from his hand and flees to the bouncy castle. Richard follows tentatively behind.

RICHARD
Oscar. Don't you know who I am?

Oscar shakes his head feverishly.

OSCAR
Is it my birfday today?

RICHARD
No, kiddo, it's not your birthday.
Oh, but you always said that if you
had one wish, it would be to make
everyday your birthday.

Oscar goes to jump off the castle, Richard reaches to grab his hand but Oscar pulls it away.

The door BANGS closed, startling Richard. Keeper stands in the doorway, arms folded.

OSCAR
Where is everyone?

Richard gets close to Oscar, kneels down to his level.

RICHARD
Please, Listen to me, I am so sorry,
Oscar, I am so so sorry.

He struggles through the tears.

RICHARD
I love you so much, I love you more
than anything in this world.

Richard reaches out for a hug - Oscar dodges - Richard crumples to the floor in tears.

Keeper kneels next to him, rubs his back.

KEEPER

He doesn't recognize you because you
don't belong here yet. Come on...

Keeper grabs Richards arm, tries to drag him from the floor
but Richard pulls away.

KEEPER

You've already been here too long,
you don't--

OSCAR

--Daddy?

Oscar furrows his brow, reaches down, holds Richards hand,
pulls him from the floor and back to his knees.

Keeper stares at him, a mix of surprise and worry.

OSCAR

Daddy? Why are you sad?

It takes a second to sink in, but Richard cries out, this
time in absolute joy. He brings Oscar in for the squeeziest
hug imaginable.

OSCAR

Daddy, look! It's my birthday party!

Richard beams.

RICHARD

I can see that, Kiddo.

OSCAR

Play with me!

KEEPER

You have to go, now.

RICHARD

Of course! What do you want to play?

KEEPER

You don't belong here!

Oscar's bottom lip begins to quiver.

OSCAR

Don't leave me on my own.

That's a dagger to Richards heart. Richard kisses Oscar on
the head.

RICHARD
 You will never be alone, I'll always
 be with you. Remember, You are
 strong, you are brave, you are loved.

Keeper grabs Richard from behind, drags him towards the door.

RICHARD
 Let me go--

KEEPER
 You cannot stay here!

OSCAR
 I love you, Daddy.

Keeper drags him faster, Richard struggles in vein to break free.

RICHARD
 I'm coming back, wait for me.

Keeper throws Richard through the double doors--

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Slowly, Richards eyes open.

He lies in a puddle of blood oozing from his slit wrists. Next to him, a child's coffin adorned in flower bouquets.

He looks to his side where a large picture of Oscar rests on a frame. His large innocent eyes stare back at him.

(O.C) the doors to the church open, a woman GASPS. Hurried footsteps.

Two MOURNERS rush to Richards side. They quickly remove their jackets and press them to Richards wounds.

RICHARD
 No, stop. He's waiting for me.

Richard looks to the picture of Oscar.

RICHARD
 Please...

His eyes roll into the back of his head.

EXT. VILLAGE HALL - DAY

The grass still vibrant green under a brilliant blue sky.

a pair of feet in comfy slippers treads peacefully through the grass. Wearing them is-

Richard (70's) a content smile as he heads for the hall. He wears a dinosaur T-shirt with the word "Daddy-saurus".

His wrists bear the long healed marks of slit wrists.

Keeper appears in front of him.

KEEPER

Welcome back. He's been waiting for you.

Richard grabs Keeper, pulls him in for a hug. The two embrace, eyes closed, smiles beaming.

With a "thank you" pat on the back, Richard leaves him for the hall. He reaches the acacia doors, pushes them open.

OSCAR (O.C.)

Daddy!

The doors close softly behind Richard.

Keeper stands like a statue. Watches the horizon.

FADE OUT.

THE END