

The Prom-ise of Love

By

Sappy love songs

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FADE IN:

EXT. KLEINHANS' MUSIC HALL - DUSK

A warm breeze blows leaves in mid-transformation past Four MAKE-A-WISH vans. Dozens of VOLUNTEERS scamper from the vans to the music hall.

A local news station, Channel 7, covers the event as the REPORTER, GAIL 30, attractive, speaks to the camera.

GAIL

We are here at Kleinhans to cover the October PROM of the LEWIS family.

(takes a long breath)

Make-A-Wish has granted the TWINS, GINA, and HOLLY, both battling end-stage Cystic Fibrosis, this wish.

INT. KLEINHANS MUSIC HALL - LATER

The BALLROOM looks beautiful decked out with flowers, stuffed animals, get-well cards, balloons, and so on.

The Ballroom's packed with FRIENDS, CLASSMATES, TEACHERS, MOM (BRENDA), volunteers, news people, and medical personnel, ALL decked out in some form of gold.

BRENDA (30), dressed in a gorgeous golden full-length gown, looks at her ringing cell phone. She reads the text and takes a deep breath, walks to a microphone.

BRENDA

Listen, the VAN pulled up. When they walk in, just clap. You don't want to shout anything that could scare them. Got it?

The crowd acknowledges her request. A hushed uneasy quiet fills the room as they wait.

The doors open as the Two girls are wheelchaired in by medical workers. Oxygen canisters by their sides. Both GINA (14) and HOLLY (14) look beautiful in their golden gowns. Both have drawn out, attractive, yet thin faces, thin bodies, but fairly big legs (from swelling), and just the right amount of makeup.

They get a standing ovation as they get wheeled in. Mom claps the loudest.

CLOSE UP: The CLOCK - 8 p.m.

INT. KLEINHANS MUSIC HALL - LATER

CLOSE UP: The Clock - 8:30 p.m.

The girls offer gigantic smiles as they watch everyone dance badly on the dance floor as Pop and Soft Rock music play on.

Brenda stands with several teachers, volunteers, and medical staff, chatting away.

As a slow song plays, couples dance, it's romantic.

Two tall, handsomely-dressed CLASSMATES appear behind the girls. They lean over, whisper something to each, then roll them to the dance floor.

The men get down on their knees, hug the girls, and dance the best they can as the girls sit in their chairs.

The room goes quiet as cell phones light it up.

Brenda's hands tremble witnessing this moment in time.

A FEMALE TEACHER next to Brenda whispers in her ear.

TEACHER

The football players love them.
Hell, the entire school loves
everything about them.

Mom sniffles.

TEACHER

They told me they were gonna
slow-dance with them. I'll be.

BRENDA

Did you know they didn't want this?

TEACHER

They told me that more deserving
people needed those wishes. You
raised those girls fine, Brenda.

She looks at the teacher.

BRENDA

Thanks.

TEACHER

No, I mean that. No matter what,
they were happy and thankful for
each day.

BRENDA
Please, stop.

She looks towards the floor.

TEACHER
I don't mean any disrespect.

BRENDA
They've just suffered so much.
Each breath a trial. I had to be
there for them. I had to.

She looks at both kids, dancing.

BRENDA
The pain. They endure so much.

The teacher caringly touches her shoulder.

TEACHER
Brenda, those two girls loved
others. They held nothing back.
Everyone's here to share this.

Brenda breaks down crying. The teacher puts her arm around
her, trying her best to comfort her.

The song ends, the football players roll the girls back to
the side of the dance floor. Another song comes on.

LATER

CLOSEUP - The Clock - 9 p.m.

More dancing. One of the students, MISSY (15), thin, golden
gown, walks to the stage, grabs a microphone.

MISSY
I'd like to say a few words.

The music cuts off mid-song, dancing stops.

MISSY
Can we bring Gina and Holly to the
front so they can hear?

They get wheeled to the front by several members of the
football team. The football players stay by their side.

BRENDA
(to another teacher)
What's going on?

The teacher smiles.

MISSY
Gina and Holly, you guys probably
think this prom is about you.

The crowd laughs. Brenda looks worried.

MISSY
But, it isn't. It's a celebration
of love dressed up as a prom.

Brenda tears up, forcing her to wipe her tears away.

MISSY
We asked everyone here why they
wanted to be here. They all said,
to a person, they loved you guys.

A few clap, then quickly stop.

MISSY
You got involved in our lives,
loves, hates, good times and the
bad times. Both of you have been
best friends for so many of us.

Missy sniffles. Tries to fight back tears.

MISSY
You've been in our souls, touched
us, and made us better for it.

Missy cries a bit harder.

MISSY
Miss Lewis, can you join us?

Brenda stands next to the girls, looks up at the stage,
uncertain what happens now.

MISSY
Can all of you please turn around.

Brenda and her kids turn around and the Hall has been
altered into Three sections.

Section One shows off several beautiful COLLAGES lovingly
framed with expensive frames of the girls involved in all
aspects of school and home life.

Section Two shows off a gigantic Five-Foot card that says
LOVE on the cover with the inside filled with hundreds of
people writing about them.

Section Three boasts a video that starts off with a tribute from each person making the video.

Brenda, the girls, and everyone openly cry.

MISSY

And we got you all this.

Brenda and the girls turn around. Missy holds golden umbrellas. She hands them out to Brenda, who gives them to her daughters.

MISSY

These umbrellas are a symbol of the protection they offer to anything that comes your way.

The hall erupts in cheers for them.

LATER

CLOSE UP - Clock 9:45 p.m.

Brenda stands with her daughters, all of which are still emotionally raw after that show of support, umbrellas clearly visible for all to witness.

BRENDA

Did you guys know?

The girls both shake their heads no, sob harder.

Gina coughs. Tina joins in. Brenda strokes their hair.

The coughing gets worse. Neither one can stop. Brenda looks concerned.

The music stops. People start to look around.

BRENDA

You guys okay?
(to the medical personnel)
Take them to the bathroom.

Several VOLUNTEERS wheel them to the bathroom.

The coughing intensifies in both.

Suddenly, Brenda stumbles a bit, grabs her chest.

A volunteer holds the door open for Brenda as she slowly walks in, then shuts the door.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

The bathroom looks spotless, clean, and bright.

BRENDA
You guys OK?

Gina slumps in her chair.

BRENDA
Oh, God, no.

Holly slumps in her chair.

A few people from the MEDICAL staff enter.

BRENDA
You gotta help them.

Brenda stands at the sink, coughs, leans over and vomits.

The medical staff removes both sisters from their chairs.

All three family members conditions worsen quickly.

Brenda's wig falls off -

Some kids and teachers start peeking through the door.

REVEAL - Brenda's bald.

One medical person calls for an ambulance while another tends to Brenda.

MEDICAL PERSON
Brenda, can you talk? Honey,
(notices the wig)
Are you fighting cancer?

Brenda can't respond. The choking's too severe.

Both Holly and Gina pass out, followed quickly by Brenda.

MEDICAL PERSON
(tending to Gina)
We're losing her. I got a DEATH
RATTLE in her lungs.

DIFFERENT MEDICAL PERSON
Look at her legs. Mottling.

Holly's lower legs have changed color to an off-reddish hue.
Blood isn't getting circulated.

More peeking as the door opens and closes.

The same's true for Gina. They lift up her gown to look at her legs to witness the same mottling.

They start chest compressions on Brenda and her daughters.

Finally, Missy walks in, eyes red. She sees her friends and their mother sprawled on the floor, in bad shape.

MISSY

Are they-

One Medical person gives a grave look, shakes "no".

Missy runs out from the bathroom, hysterical.

INT. KLEINHANS MUSIC HALL - LATER

CLOSE UP - Clock 10:30 p.m.

The hall's empty, save for the film crew.

Gail and the CAMERAMAN stand next to a table.

CAMERAMAN

Are you sure you want to do this?

GAIL

Yes, get ready.

The Cameraman brings the camera up to his shoulder, turns it on, adjusts the mic and the light, starts rolling, then gives her the signal to talk.

Gail, eyes puffy and baggy from heavy crying, tries to valiantly make her report.

GAIL

I'm at a loss for words. What started off as a wonderful and beautiful night for the Lewis family turned tragic w-when, when-

Gail loses it, but, goes on.

GAIL

(clears her throat)

When Gina, her twin sister, Holly, and their mother, Brenda all suffered fatal complications.

Gail puts her hand on the back table to steady herself.

GAIL

It seems that Brenda ignored her own cancer so that she could be there for her children.

(beat)

As a mom, I know she's in Heaven along with her two angels who touched so many lives. This is Gail for Channel Seven news signing off. Good night now.

THE END.