

SEVEN
A Short Film
by
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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The sounds of a woman yelling can be heard from the hallway of the hospital. Her shouts are silenced after a beat and replaced by the sound of a baby crying. As a doctor opens the door to leave, a woman can be seen lying in the hospital bed, a baby held tightly to her chest.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SECONDS LATER

The woman is holding her baby tightly, smiling. A nurse comes over and holds her hands out to take the baby.

NURSE

We've got to get him cleaned up, and let you get some rest.

The woman nods and hands the nurse her baby.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Do you have a name for him?

MOTHER

(nodding)

Leo.

NURSE

Leo. Beautiful, I'll get the birth certificate completed for you. And don't worry, we'll bring him back to you in just a bit, he's a healthy boy.

The mother nods and smiles, leaning back and closing her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A 2-year old, LEO, is slowly pushing himself up using the edge of a couch. He shakily walks over to the television stand on the other side of the room where he trips and falls, hitting his head on the edge. His head is cut as he lays on the ground crying.

MOTHER

Leo?! Are you okay baby?

A pair of feminine hands reach out to frantically pick him up, as they rush out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Leo and his mother enter the bathroom, and she sets him on the closed toilet, reaching into the medicine cabinet above the sink. She quickly cleans and patches his cut, kissing him on the forehead.

MOTHER

There, all better see?

LEO

(babyish)

All better.

We see the now patched cut closer and-

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY - 6 YEARS LATER

The cut, now a faint scar is on an 8-year old Leo who is running through a park, a younger girl trailing behind him.

LEO

C'mon sissy, hurry, mama's gonna get us!

Leo and his sister run through the park, and they are stopped when their mother jumps from behind a tree and scares them, grabbing Leo in the process.

LEO (CONT'D)

Ah, mama!

MOTHER

I gotcha! That means you're it now.
Ready?

LEO

I'm ready! I'm ready!

His mother laughs as she sets him down. She turns and picks up his sister.

MOTHER

Come with me, we've got to run!

The pair takes off, Leo running after them.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL TRACK - DAY - 5 YEARS LATER

Now 13-year old Leo is running around the track, his competitors close behind him. His mother and sister are in the stands beside the track, watching and cheering for him.

MOTHER

Go Leo! Go bud!

SISTER

Go Leo!

Leo turns the last bend of the track, crossing the finish line first, winning the race. His mother and his sister cheer loudly for him. His mother and sister stand up and slowly make their way out of the stands, meeting Leo at the edge of the track.

MOTHER

That's my boy! You did so good!

SISTER

Good job bubs!

LEO

(grinning)

Thank you!

His sister hugs him, but quickly pulls away.

SISTER

Gross, you're sweaty.

The trio laughs as his mother reaches out and places her hands on his shoulders.

MOTHER

I'm so proud of you Leo.

Leo grins and-

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - 3 YEARS LATER

Leo is standing in front of the couch in a suit, his mother fussing over him.

MOTHER

My little boy all grown up. My goodness where did the time go?

LEO

Mom, mom c'mon. It's just junior prom, calm down.

MOTHER

It is not just junior prom! It means you're growing up! Next thing we know you'll be off at college, forgetting all about your poor mother.

LEO

Mom, that's still 2 years away, don't worry. Plus, how could I forget about you?

Leo reaches and hugs his mother tightly, only breaking when the doorbell rings.

LEO (CONT'D)

(laughing lightly)

Sara's here. You've gotta let go now mom.

MOTHER

Oh, fine fine. Don't forget her corsage.

She reaches for the coffee table, grabbing the packaged corsage, handing it to Leo.

LEO

Thanks mom!

Leo turns and rushes out of the living room towards the front door. The sound of the front door opening can be heard in the living room where Leo's mother is still standing. As Leo and Sara talk indistinctly, his mother makes her way towards the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Leo and Sara are now standing on the front porch of Leo's house.

LEO
Mom, we've got to go, okay?

MOTHER
I know, I know, just one more picture?

SARA
(chuckling)
Of course, Ms. Morgan, take as many as
you want.

LEO
(groans)
Sara, we're going to be here forever now!

MOTHER
Oh hush, Leo.

His mother raises her phone to take a picture of the couple as Sara turns and kisses Leo on the cheek. As she lowers her phone-

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - 1 YEAR LATER

Leo and Sara, in the same position as the picture, are now in graduation caps and gowns.

MOTHER
Oh, I can't believe you two have
graduated. Where did the time go?

SARA
I know Ms. Morgan, it went by really
fast.

LEO
It really did. But hey, we're done with
high school!

SARA
(laughing)
We're done!

The pair smiles at each other for a beat.

CUT TO:

INT. LEO'S ROOM - DAY - A FEW MONTHS LATER

The pair now stands, a frustrated look on Leo's face.

LEO

You don't even want to try?

SARA

I just think it's best if we go into college by ourselves. I mean New York to South Carolina is a big gap, and besides I think it'd be best if we found ourselves at college without the other person holding us back.

LEO

So I've been holding you back?

SARA

That's not necessarily what I'm saying.

LEO

But it's not what you aren't saying either.

SARA

Look Leo, I love you, I do. I just think that college is a time to really get to know yourself, and that'd be easiest if neither of us had someone else to focus on. You know?

LEO

So almost two years is just gone, because you want to be single in college?

SARA

Well, no I-

LEO

No, it's okay Sara I get it. Have fun in New York. Good luck.

Leo turns and opens his bedroom door for Sara. She falters for a minute before slowly making her way out of his room. Once she's gone, he closes the door and sits on his bed, a dejected look on his face. After a beat, a knock sounds on his door.

MOTHER

Leo, hun, are you okay?

LEO

(sadly)

No.

His mom opens his door and walks in, sitting next to him on the bed.

MOTHER

The first heartbreak is always the worst,
I know baby.

Leo starts crying, leaning against his mother as she hugs him.

LEO

I just don't understand why. She said she
thinks we need to find ourselves at
college, and she doesn't think we can do
that if we're together.

His mother rubs his arm, hugging him still.

LEO (CONT'D)

I love her mom. What do I do now?

MOTHER

You take all the time you need to
recover, and then you go have the best
time ever at college.

Leo leans away from his mom and smiles at her, wiping his face.

LEO

Okay, okay yeah. I can do that.

MOTHER

(jokingly)

Good, because I don't know how much
longer I can deal with your smelly
laundry.

Leo laughs loudly, and leans his head back on his mother's shoulder.

LEO

I love you mom.

MOTHER

I love you, too hun.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM - A FEW MONTHS LATER

Leo and his mom are hugging, unpacked boxes surrounding them in the small room.

MOTHER

Be good! Don't drink a lot, I know I can't say no drinking because it's bound to happen at college, but be safe in what you do. No drugs, do your homework, go to class, make friends. Just be good please. And have a great time, hun.

LEO

Yes ma'am.

Leo pulls away from his mother.

LEO (CONT'D)

I love you mom. I'll see you at Thanksgiving, okay?

MOTHER

(sniffing)

Okay. Be safe. I love you, Leo.

His mother turns as leaves the room, the door clicking shut behind her. Leo turns and looks around his room, moving towards a box to start unpacking.

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT - A FEW MONTHS LATER

Leo is in the middle of a densely packed frat party. The music is loud, and there are people everywhere. Leo is dancing with a girl, a cup in his hand. Suddenly, the music is shut off. Everyone groans before someone yells.

FRAT GUY

Cops! You've all gotta go! Now!

Leo, and the rest of the party goers rush out of the house.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - DAY - A FEW WEEKS LATER

Leo is sat at a table, his head in his hands with a lot of textbooks open around him. He groans loudly, only looking up when someone sits down at the table with him.

RILEY

Are you okay?

LEO
Yeah, just finals are getting to me.

RILEY
Ah, understandable.

LEO
Yeah, her you're in my history class,
right?

RILEY
Yep, I sit two rows in front of you. Is
that what you're working on?

LEO
(nodding)
I cannot remember these dates to save my
life.

Riley laughs before grabbing his textbook and spinning
around so that she can read it.

RILEY
Well, it would help if you were in the
right section of what we need to study.
We never covered Russian history so.

Leo laughs before putting his head in his hands again.

LEO
I'm screwed, right?

RILEY
Not necessarily, come on, I'll help you.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY - 3 YEARS LATER

Leo and Riley are holding hands and smiling for a picture
as his mother and her parents take multiple pictures.

MOTHER
I can't believe it! College graduates!
I'm so proud of you both!

RILEY'S MOTHER
Unbelievably proud!

RILEY
Thank you guys.

LEO
Yeah, thank you.

Leo and Riley look at each other before looking back to their parents.

LEO (CONT'D)
Hey, um, we actually have something to tell you all.

Riley grins and holds up her hand, showing an engagement ring.

MOTHER
Oh my goodness!

RILEY'S MOTHER
Oh, oh my God, I'm going to faint. Dear, get ready to catch me.

Riley's Mother turns to Riley's Husband pretending to faint into him.

RILEY
(laughing)
Mom! Don't be so dramatic.

RILEY'S FATHER
Congratulations, you two.

LEO
Thank you. And thank you for keeping my secret for so long.

MOTHER
You knew?

RILEY'S FATHER
(nods)
He asked me for permission.

RILEY'S MOTHER
Oh what a gentleman. I'm so happy for you guys!

RILEY
Thank you.

MOTHER
So, when is the wedding then?

LEO
Mom!

The group laughs as-

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN - DAY - 1 YEAR LATER

Leo and Riley are stood at an alter, an officiant finishing the wedding ceremony.

OFFICIANT

I know pronounce you husband and wife,
you may now kiss the bride.

Leo and Riley lean towards each other and kiss as their family and friends cheer loudly for them.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - EARLY MORNING - 4 YEARS LATER

Again, a woman can be heard yelling from the hallway, but her shouts are cut off by the sound of a baby crying.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EARLY MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Riley is lying in the bed, Leo sat next to her as they both look at the baby in Riley's arms. As all of the doctor's leave, Leo's mother and Riley's parent all come into the room. Leo and Riley looks up and smiles at them all.

LEO

(grinning)

It's a girl.

RILEY

Meet Elizabeth.

LEO

We're going to call her Lizzy.

RILEY'S MOTHER

Oh honey, she's beautiful.

MOTHER

Congratulations you too.

Everybody remains still for a moment before Riley's Father makes his way to the bed.

RILEY'S FATHER
'Scuse me, Gramps is coming through, I
need to see my granddaughter.

Everyone laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - 2 YEARS LATER

Lizzy, now a toddler, is waddling around the living room, when she suddenly trips, and cuts her forehead on the coffee table. She starts crying, and Leo jumps up from his spot on the couch and picks up Lizzy, taking her out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Leo sets Lizzy on the counter, holding her as he reaches into a cabinet and grabbing a bandaid and medicine as Lizzy continues crying.

LEO
It's okay Lizzy. It's alright dear.

He quickly cleans her cut and puts a bandaid on it. As she stops crying, she looks up at Leo.

LEO (CONT'D)
Look.
(he pushes his hair up to
show his scar on his
forehead)
We match now.

LIZZY
(babyish)
Daddy match.

LEO
(laughing)
That's right Lizzy.

The sound of the front door opening makes them both look over as Riley enters the room. She looks over at Lizzy and Leo, concerned.

RILEY
What happened?

LEO

She tripped in the living room. It should be okay, it's not a bad cut.

LIZZY

Dada match! Dada match!

Riley laughs, and looks to Leo, who shrugs as he pushes his hair back up to show his scar..

LEO

Dada and Lizzy match.

Riley laughs again and makes her way to the pair to hug them both, when suddenly-

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BLACK VOID

A faint beeping can be heard, along with muffled voices. The beeping slows, before becoming a long, monotonous beep.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

As the beeping continues, the muffled voices become clearer. Leo is lying in the hospital bed, wires and tubes attached to him.

DOCTOR

I am truly sorry, we did everything we could.

RILEY

(crying)

So, so that's it? Just like that?

DOCTOR

I am very, very sorry, his injuries were just too severe when he came in.

RILEY

He's really gone?

DOCTOR

He is. If it's any consolation, there have been some studies that show brain activity can remain for 7-12 minutes after the heart stops, so it is very possible that he is remembering his most important moments.

RILEY

That, I don't know if that helps or not.

The doctor stands for a moment before speaking up again.

DOCTOR

I'll leave you be for a bit.

Riley remains sitting in the chair as the doctor leaves, tears streaming silently down her face.

RILEY

Leo, darling, I- I don't know if you can hear me, but I love you. I love you so much. I don't know what I'm going to do without you. Me and Lizzy are going to miss you so much.

(to herself)

Oh Lizzy, what am I going to tell her.

Riley goes silent, looking over at Leo. She slowly reaches into her purse and pulls out her phone. Her lock screen is a photo of her, Leo and Lizzy. She logs in slowly and opens the phone app, scrolling through her contacts to find Leo's mother, labeled as "mom-in-law". She pushes call and raises the phone to her ear.

RILEY (CONT'D)

(choked up)

He- He's gone. The doctor said his brain might be replaying all of his best and most important memories, but he's gone. I don't know what to do anymore.

Riley breaks down in tears and-

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DREAM LIBRARY - DAY

Leo is sitting at the table where he and Riley met. In front of him are photos of all of the moments that had occurred up to this point. Faintly, Riley's speech can be heard as he looks through all of the photos. As he reaches the last one, he leans back and closes his eyes.

After a beat, Riley's voice is heard again, although this time it sounds older and closer.

OLD RILEY

Are you okay?

Leo opens his eyes quickly to see an older version of Riley standing in front of him. He grins at her as she sits down across from him and reaches for the photographs.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.