

Jack's Eyes

by

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FADE IN:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

EMMA (3) sits on the table. The DOCTOR places a pair of green round rubber glasses around her eyes.

DOCTOR
There you go!

Emma's eyes look much bigger through the lenses. She opens her eyes wider and a big smile grows on her face. She looks over at her MOTHER.

EMMA
WOW!

MOTHER
Aw, isn't that better, baby?

Her mother wipes off a tear that streams down her face.

All three of them start clapping.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

EMMA (7) is wearing a brown pair of glasses that make her eyes look just as big as the green ones did. She sits at her desk and is looking forward at the whiteboard full of writings. A CLASSMATE who sits to the right of Emma puts her arm out to hand Emma a pencil.

Emma squints as she looks at the board.

The classmate waves the pencil aggressively, close to Emma's shoulder. Emma continues to look forward, tilting her head to the side as her eyes are scanning the board.

Her classmate taps Emma's shoulder with the pencil.

Emma jumps slightly and turns her head towards her classmate.

EMMA
Oh, I'm sorry

Emma takes the pencil from her.

Her classmate's face twists into a scowl and she looks away. Emma's eyebrows raise in confusion and her lips shape into a frown.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

EMMA (10) wears black glasses that make her eyes look big. She is walking towards the couch, and runs into a table.

She begins to frantically use her hands to touch all around her, her eyebrows jumbling into a furrow.

EMMA
(confused)
Momma?

Emma's MOTHER, who is sitting on the couch, turns her head towards Emma and abruptly jumps up.

MOTHER
Baby, are you okay?

EMMA
Momma, it's happening.

Emma's chest begins to puff in and outwards very obviously, her breathing getting heavy.

Emma's mother rushes over to Emma and holds her

MOTHER
It's okay baby, it's okay. I'm
here. Momma's got you.

The mother leads Emma towards the couch.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

EMMA sits on the table, her MOTHER standing next to her. The DOCTOR leans over and examines Emma's eyes using light.

He pulls back and looks downwards, his back slightly hunched. He looks up at Emma's MOTHER and shakes his head.

Emma's mother bursts into tears. Emma looks forward.

EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

EMMA walks out holding her mother's hand in one hand, and a long stick in the other hand. Emma is wearing black sunglasses, and she moves the stick across the ground below her.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

EMMA sits on the floor, looking straight ahead with a smile on her face, next to a big Christmas tree. She sits in a circle with her MOTHER and FATHER. Her mother gets up to walk away.

Her mother then comes back and in her hands carries a golden retriever puppy named JACK. She kneels down and places JACK in Emma's lap.

EMMA
(excitedly)
Oh my goodness!

Emma's jaw drops as she feels the puppy's fur, and her face grows a smile from ear to ear.

EXT. TRAINING CENTER - DAY

EMMA and her MOTHER, who is walking JACK on a leash, walk into a building.

INSERT - SIGN

The sign on the building says "SERVICE DOG TRAINING."

INT. TRAINING CENTER - DAY

EMMA and her MOTHER are greeted by a TRAINER who has a big smile on her face.

TRAINER
Hey guys, welcome! I've been so excited to start working with you three

The trainer kneels down and pets JACK.

TRAINER (CONT'D)
Especially you, soldier. You're about to change Emma's life.

Emma giggles

EMMA
I can't wait!

The trainer undoes Jack's leash and proceeds to place a harness on his back.

The trainer then lifts the handle of the harness and walks JACK into a room.

Emma, holding onto her mother's elbow, and her mother both follow.

EXT. STREET - DAY

EMMA (18) wears black sunglasses and walks down a sidewalk holding JACK by his harness's handle next to her.

He walks ahead of her until he reaches a crosswalk where cars are passing and he stops walking. Emma stops walking. The cars stop for a red light and Jack continues walking, Emma following.

They both pass restaurants and clothing stores. Emma looks around, and she gives the air a quick sniff.

EMMA
(whispers)
Coffee.

She looks downwards

EMMA (CONT'D)
Jack, door.

Jack walks Emma towards the nearest door.

INSERT - LOGO

The door reads "Coffee Works."

INT. COFFEE WORKS - DAY

EMMA walks in with JACK ahead of her and they both wait by the door.

A young man named MICHAEL (19) sitting at a table looks up from his phone. He stands up. He swallows, his mouth opens and closes hesitantly. He walks over to Emma.

MICHAEL
Hi Emma, it's Michael. I'm glad
you made it.

Michael reaches his hand out for a shake. Emma does the same. She smiles and he grabs her hand.

EMMA
It's nice to finally meet you.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

EMMA and MICHAEL sit at a table, sipping their drinks, and having a laugh. JACK is lying down on the floor next to Emma.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

EMMA walks in wearing her black glasses, in a different outfit, holding MICHAEL's hand with one hand, and holding her keys in the other hand. JACK walks in behind her.

EMMA

Momma?

Emma's MOTHER comes to the door and shakes Michael's hand.

MOTHER

I've heard so much about you, it's nice to meet you, Michael.

MICHAEL

It's nice to meet you too, thank you for having me over.

EXT. PARK - DAY

EMMA (21), wearing her black sunglasses, and MICHAEL (22) are dancing, goofily waltzing around. They're both giggling. On the ground is a piece of cloth that is laid out; on top of it are snacks and fruits. A mini speaker plays their music. JACK is lying down next to the cloth.

Michael prompts Emma to stand still, and then kneels down on one knee. He pulls a ring out of his pocket and holds it up to her.

Emma's head tilts downwards and she reaches her arms out to his hands. She places her hands on the ring box and feels around the ring. She then throws her hands over her mouth, gasping.

MICHAEL

Emma, for the rest of my life, I would love to be by your side, helping you see the world in every way possible. I want to be there for you forever. Will you allow me to do so by marrying me?

EMMA

(excitedly)

Oh my. YES, YES, YES.

Emma jumps up and down, extends her arm out, and Michael puts a ring on her finger.

INSERT - JACK

Jack lifts his head up and his ears perk up as he watches the proposal unfold.

CUT TO SCENE

Emma hugs Michael.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

EMMA sits on the table, wearing her black sunglasses. MICHAEL stands next to her, holding her hand. JACK is lying down on the floor. Her DOCTOR smiles at them both.

EMMA
So? Am I finally fit for it?

DOCTOR
We'll have the surgery in two weeks!

Emma lets out a loud cry, and she hugs Michael. Jack sits up and lets his tongue out as his eyes and ears perk up.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

EMMA is lying on her back with bandages covering her eyes. Her MOTHER is sitting on the edge of her bed. Her FATHER is sitting on a chair next to the bed, and MICHAEL is standing next to him.

JACK is lying on the floor.

The DOCTOR walks into the room

DOCTOR
Alright, are we ready for this?

EMMA
I've been ready my whole life

The doctor leans over to Emma and slowly removes the bandages. Emma opens her eyes, and she blinks rapidly. Her eyebrows raise and tears begin to run down from her eyes.

EMMA (CONT'D)
I CAN SEE

Emma holds her mother's face in her hands, then hugs her. She does the same to her father, and then Michael.

Jack sits up, looks at Emma, and wags his tail around.

Emma continues talking to her family members.

Jack's tail wagging ceases. His ears fall down, and he rests himself back down, placing his head on his paws.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

EMMA is sitting up in bed, looking at a book in her hand. On the edge of the bed sits JACK. Next to her lies MICHAEL, who is typing away on a computer on his lap.

Emma places the book on the dresser next to her and steps out of the bed to stand up. Jack looks at her and immediately pops up, stands next to her.

EMMA
You silly dog

Emma walks begins to take a step, but Jack jumps in front of her to block her from walking. He whimpers, rubs his back against her, and looks up at her.

Emma continues to walk, but Jack keeps up with his ears bent downwards.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Jack, no. Hault.

Jack stands still. Emma keeps walking. Jack tilts his head to the side as he watches her.

EMMA (CONT'D)
(to Michael)
We really need to find him another blind kid.

MICHAEL
That would be better for the both of you.

Jack whimpers and then lies down.

EMMA
I think we should take him to a training center tomorrow and see if they could keep him and re-train him for somebody else.

MICHAEL
Whatever you wanna do, babe.

INT. HOUSE DOORWAY - DAY

EMMA is putting her shoes on, JACK standing next to her.

EMMA
Okay come on, boy.

She reaches for a leash on top of the shoe shelf and reaches out for Jack so she can put it on his collar. Jack pulls away. He makes his way towards a bag that sits next to Emma.

Jack digs his face into the bag and pulls out his harness using his teeth.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Jack, no.

Jack drops the harness and then his ears.

EMMA (CONT'D)
That's what we're not doing. Not anymore, no thank you. Not with me, at least.

Emma proceeds to attach the leash to Jack's collar, and then carries the bag next to her and stands up.

EMMA (CONT'D)
(loudly)
Let's go, Michael!

EXT. STREET - DAY

EMMA walks JACK using a leash. She's chatting with MICHAEL as they stroll down a sidewalk. They laugh harder and harder as they walk.

EMMA
You really said that?

MICHAEL
I did, I really did

They both begin to step into a crosswalk.

INSERT - TRUCK

A truck comes speeding down the road.

BACK TO SCENE

JACK looks in the direction of the truck and whimpers.

While Emma and Michael are still busy laughing, Jack runs and bites Emma's pants, pulling her backwards.

Emma stumbles and falls back onto the sidewalk. She looks up and we see her face turn from joy to fear. Her eyes widen as she looks in front of her.

EMMA
(screaming)

NO!

We hear a loud CRASH.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

EMMA is sitting on the couch next to her MOTHER. Emma is staring forward. Her eyes are puffy and red and a few tears stream down her face.

Emma holds JACK in her arms who is sitting on her lap. She pets him over and over again.

Emma's mother is stroking Emma's hair. Tears are streaming down her face as well.

MOTHER
I know it's only been a few days,
so it's okay to not want to do
anything yet. Are you sure you're
ready to go out and do this?

Emma sniffles.

EMMA
I'm ready

EXT. TRAINING CENTER - DAY

EMMA, who is walking JACK on a leash, and her MOTHER walk into a building.

INSERT - SIGN

The sign on the building says "SERVICE DOG TRAINING."

INT. TRAINING CENTER - DAY

EMMA walks in with JACK, her mother following behind. EMMA walks up to the front desk where TRAINER 2 stands.

TRAINER 2
Welcome, how can we help you?

EMMA
Hi, I was hoping you guys could
retrain Jack here.

Emma looks over at her mother. Her mother gives her a warm little smile.

EMMA (CONT'D)
He was my service dog, but I no longer need the service. No way am I getting rid of him, though. I just need him to understand that I'm not blind anymore.

TRAINER 2
Of course! We can do that.

Emma smiles and Jack wags his tail. She kneels downwards and fluffs around the dog around his head.

EMMA
(to Jack)
You're not my eyes anymore, but I still need you, buddy.

She kisses him on the nose.