

Always Together

(A Short Film)

written by

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FADE IN

EXT. HOUSE- NIGHTTIME

We see two kids sitting in the backyard lying in the grass looking at the stars. The boy is TOM (16) who is wearing pajamas while the girl next to him is MARCY (16) who is also wearing pajamas along with a blue bow on her hair.

TOM

Its been over one year huh, Marcy?

MARCY

Man, I remember that day. You were like... drowning that first day as a freshman.

TOM

Yeah it was a rough first day. I literally almost lost my arm and leg to Conner Roach. Until you came in and stood up for me like a chad.

MARCY

Yeah, that Conner can be something can he? (laughs) But, hey I saw you drowning and I had to step in. Glad I did. Thought I never find someone else who drinks the same boba I have, likes pineapple on pizza, and prefers the beach over the pool

TOM

Beach Buddies for Life!!

The two laugh as crickets chirp in the background.

MARCY

Too bad, Anne couldn't make it, huh. That Pink Eye disease gotta be so rough.

Tom's phone vibrates. Tom takes out his phone and reads it off the text.

TOM

Yeah, but no worries. She texted saying that she's coming back tomorrow, but she will be wearing dark shades for her eyes. She'll look like a star.

MARCY

(laughs) That's so Anne. Anyway, since we've been friends for over a year now, I think it's time we do something I saw once in a movie.

TOM

Should I be scared?

MARCY

A little. Just wait by the porch, okay?

They both get up and head for the porch. Tom waits while Marcy heads inside. She then comes out with a Polaroid Camera and a Sharpie.

TOM

What's all this for?

MARCY

Just look at the camera.

Marcy holds up the camera and they both take a selfie. The picture comes out and Marcy takes it.

TOM

Now what?

Marcy then puts the photo on the porch and writes out a message out in permanent marker. She then turns to Tom, smiles, and gives him the photo.

MARCY

My gift to you.

Tom looks at the front of the photo which says "BFF's Forever". In the back it says, "I promise we will always be together even if we are not." Tom is touched by this.

TOM

Wow, thank you!

The two hug.

MARCY

What now? We got a few minutes before my mom yells at me.

TOM

How about ...TAG! You're it!!

Tom tags Marcy suddenly and they begin to play and runs outside and run in the street.

At that moment, a car is driving at high speed but the two don't notice until it is around 500 ft. away. Marcy is far from the house. Tom runs as Marcy attempts to catch up. Suddenly the car is about to run over Marcy, and Tom turns and yells at his best friend.

TOM (CONT'D)
Marcy, look out!!!

The screen turns black as we hear a car crash noise and we then hear Tom scream "No!" in the background.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET AFTERNOON

We now return back to Tom who we now see walking down the road holding a memorial card in one hand and a photo in the other and looking very depressed with red eyes. Memorial Card says (RIP Marcy Wang she will be missed). The photo is the BFF photo Marcy gave Tom now looking a bit wrinkled and wet.

TOM
Oh Marcy, why, why?

Tom rubs his eyes as he walks. He then turns and gasps. He is now in front of the library and sees Marcy's other friend ANNE outside who is wearing shades. She is talking on the phone. Tom runs up to her.

ANNE
I know mom, it just not the same
without her. Look I'll be home
soon, ok. OK, bye.

Anne puts the phone in her pocket when she hears Tom. She looks to see Tom running to her.

TOM
Anne! Anne!

ANNE
Tom? Tom!

The two then share an emotional hug for about five seconds as sad music plays in the background. Anne then suddenly pushes Tom out of the hug.

TOM
What was that for?!

ANNE

How could you and Marcy play tag on the road! If you just- if you'd gone inside-

TOM

(pleading) Anne. I didn't mean for it to happen I swear I didn't...

Anne stares, fists trembling. Then her anger turns to grief. She takes out her shade and wipes her eyes.

ANNE

I'm sorry...I just feel like a part of me is gone.

TOM

Me too. She wouldn't have wanted us like this though.

Anne and Tom walk to the library. They see a sign that says "Free Books" along with a basket next to it. Curious they look in and rummage through. Tom then picks up a book and looks at the cover and his smile begins to grow wide.

TOM (CONT'D)

Anne drop everything and come look at this!

Anne drops the book she was holding and looks at the cover of the book Tom found. She then gasps and begins to feel uneasy. She and Tom begin to rummage through the pages and read as mysterious music plays. The cover reveals the book is called "How to Revive the Dead".

ANNE

This sounds like a joke. Are you sure this is legit?

TOM

Totally. This is labeled as non-fiction. It even says banned for actual witchcraft. It has to work.

ANNE

So what do we do exactly?

TOM (READING)

All we need to do is to collect these ingredients, mix them all up, and say this spell and then we see the ghost of the lost one. After that it's complicated.

(MORE)

TOM (READING) (CONT'D)
 But don't you see, this could be
 the key to bringing her back.

Anne shakes her head and lets go of the book.

ANNE
 Come on, Tom. You really think
 Marcy would have wanted us to mess
 with this kind of stuff.

Tom freezes for a second but overcome by grief and guilt he
 turns to Anne.

TOM
 She trusted me for a year and I
 killed her. (beat) If there is a
 chance of bringing her back...
 don't we kind of owe her.

Anne thinks about this as Tom gives her a begging look and in
 the end she looks at Tom with a determined look.

ANNE
 Ok, but if we're doing this, we're
 doing this together.

The two high five and head off into the street as mysterious
 music plays.

CUT TO:

BEGIN MONTAGE of Gathering Supplies

Tom reads the book, pointing at ingredients.

Anne grabs herbs from a grocery shelf: rosemary, lavender,
 basil.

Cinnamon and Salt tossed in a basket.

Anne digs through drawers at her home: candles, matches, a
 giant blue pot.

They fist-bump, arms full of supplies.

END MONTAGE of Gathering Supplies

INT. ANNE'S KITCHEN- DAY

The counter is covered with herbs, candles, and scrapes of
 paper. Tom studies the book while Anne grabs a knife.

TOM

All right, now we just need a full moon. When's the next one?

ANNE

(checking phone)

Two nights. Gives us time to prep.

TOM

Okay that leaves us two days to set it up. You ready for this?

ANNE

Let's go bring back our friend.

The two give thumbs up but doubt still lingers in the air. The screen goes black as we time skip to the night of the ritual.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOM'S APARTMENT- NIGHTTIME

Tom leans on the balcony, staring at the sky and full moon. He is holding the photo and his finger traces over Marcy's handwriting

TOM

Hang in there, buddy. We'll bring you back.

ANNE (O.S.)

Tom, it's time!

Tom puts the photo inside his pocket and heads inside.

INT. APARTMENT- NIGHTTIME

Tom and Anne are now inside the kitchen setting up. We see a sticky note that says, (Clean the dishes while I'm out, honey! Love, Mom.) We see that the kitchen counter cluttered with the ingredients the two collected. On the stove we see the blue pot with Anne pouring water in it. Tom turns up to stove.

ANNE

Ok, what's first?

Tom picks up the book and begins to read from it

TOM (READING)

Ok, it says to first take all the herbs, chop them up, and then throw them in a pot of boiling water.

Anne takes a knife and chops up the rosemary, lavender, and basil. After it's chopped up she tosses it in the pot.

TOM (CONT'D)

Next, cinnamon and salt. Just a pinch.

Anne sprinkles both in. The smoke rises out.

TOM (CONT'D)

Mix...and then pours a little into a small bowl.

Anne grabs a wooden spoon and begins to stir the water. Anne then pours some of the water into a small bowl. Tom takes the pot and puts it in the sink.

TOM (CONT'D)

Now let's get everything else ready.

Anne places the bowl in the middle of the stove. The two then set some candles around the bowl and light each one. Tom then brings the paper and pen and writes Marcy full name on it (Marcy Wang) and then places it next to the candles. Tom then reveals the blue bow Marcy wore.

TOM (CONT'D)

And now a personal item of the lost one.

Tom then places the bow in the bowl and then takes out his photo. He holds it and heads to Anne.

ANNE

You ready for this?

TOM

Lets do this Anne.

The two clasp their hands, their faces lit by the candles.

ANNE AND TOM (CONT'D)

With the hand of our best friend,
we bring her back from the dead!

As they chant again and repeat, the water begins to bubble, candles and lights flicker, smoke curls upward, and winds blows in.

TOM (CONT'D)
It's working!

Tom continues to chant as he pulls out the photo and as he stare at it he falters. We cut back and fourth to Tom's expression as we cycle through his memories, he and Marcy and the beach, drinking boba and making silly faces, and a flash of the words written on the photo. Tom's expression hardens. He lets go of Anne's hand.

TOM (WHISPERING) (CONT'D)
No... This isn't her.

ANNE
What? Tom, don't-

TOM (SHOUTS)
STOP!!!!

The ritual stops as the candles go out as the lights come on and Anne startled almost falls but grabs the kitchen stand. She then turns and looks at Tom.

ANNE
Are you kidding me?! You just killed our one shot!

TOM (NEAR TEARS)
She didn't want it like this. She wanted-

MARCY
To be there for you.

Tom and Anne are confused and turn around and see Marcy standing there but as a ghost in the same outfit she wore before she got run over. They gasp and Anne takes off her sunglasses and rubs her eyes staring in shock.

TOM AND ANNE
MARCY?!!!!

MARCY
Feels good... to see you both...

As she speaks her voice is a bit glitchy and static as her body begins to flash. Tom looks at her scared.

TOM
Marcy, what's going on with you?!

Anne picks up the book and skims through it fast.

ANNE

It says- it says you're here for a few minutes before... before you're gone forever.

Anne's voice cracks as she reads the words and looks at Tom, defeated. Tom looks at Marcy who smiles faintly. Tom looks down at the photo in his hand as he tries to talk.

TOM

I'm so sorry. I let you die. I thought bringing you back would fix everything but-

Suddenly Tom feels a chill. He sees Marcy touching his shoulder. He shivers from the cold.

MARCY

Remember what I wrote.

Emotional music plays. She points at the photo in Tom's hand as he flips it over and the words echo in his head. "Always be together even if we are not."

MARCY (CONT'D)

I never really left you guys.

ANNE

Oh my god, my heart!!

Tears spill down Anne's cheeks as she clutches her chest. Tom salutes Marcy, trembling. Marcy waves and begins to flicker and fades into golden dust. Anne and Tom wave until there is no one.

Silence.

Anne and Tom stand frozen, then turn and hug each other.

TOM

She's gone.

ANNE

Yeah. But... not really.

The screen then turns black as the screen now says (Two Months Later).

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH EVENING (TWO MONTHS LATER)

We now see Tom and Anne sitting on the beach staring at the waves. Tom looks down at the photo of him and Marcy with the blue bow tied on the side.

TOM (V.O.)

Hey Marcy, it's been over two months. I still miss you. But... I don't feel alone anymore.

Anne leans on his shoulder

ANNE

We're okay, Marcy. Promise

TOM (V.O.)

My grades are getting better, my short film 'bout to premiere. Things didn't fall apart... 'cause you're still here. Just... in a different way.

Tom smiles at the photo with no tears this time. They sit together as the sun dips below the water.

TOM (V.O) (CONT'D)

In the end... we're always together.

The waves roll in.

Screen Fades Out.

THE END