

My Dear Alora
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BLACK SCREEN

MANIA

Okay are you ready? 5678!

The music starts playing and we hear 19th century classical music, romantic era melodies with enchanting expressions.

FADE IN

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY

ALORA (20) is practising her ballet performance routine. She has gorgeous clear skin, her hair is french braided into a ballet bun and she is wearing an ethereal dress.

As she flows through the melodies to the music, the music gets louder and her moves become really dramatic. Her face light's up. In between her steps her breathing becomes more heavy.

MANIA (40) Alora's mum, is attentively watching the performance from a chair in the corner of the room, nodding and swaying her head with the music. She is smartly dressed for the occasion, with a silk blouse and wide leg trousers. Her hair is tied in a sleek bun.

Mania notices Alora's breathing getting ragged..

MANIA

Let's take a rest now--

MUSIC OUT

Mania looks at her watch and checks the time.

MANIA

Alora, I'm so sorry I forgot,
you need to take your medicine.

Mania hands Alora her pill and water. Alora takes the medicine and resumes her starting position.

MANIA

Are you feeling okay to continue?

ALORA

I'm fine now, if I do feel anything,

I'll let you know.

Mania restarts the music. Alora focuses and poses herself. Mania counts her in...

MANIA

And 5 6 7 8

CUT: INTERIOR DANCE STUDIO - Later

It's darker now, Alora and Mania gather their things (pointe shoes, water bottle, gym bag, towel etc.

Alora starts coughing violently. Mania rushes to get an oxygen mask and the tank, and puts it over Alora's face.

MANIA

Okay breathe ... and out
Breathe in and out.

Alora breathes in and out deeply a few times. She closes her eyes for a moment and nods, removing the mask.

They walk towards the exit. Alora looks weary, Mania carries the tank and supports Alora's arm.

INT. Alora's BEDROOM - EVENING

Alora looks at herself in the mirror and sighs. Then starts to cough. She coughs into a tissue, revealing blood. She reaches under her bed and pulls out her old camcorder, then she leaves that to one side and she reaches again, pulling out an old shoe box and opens it. The box is full of bloody tissues. Alora adds the tissue from her hand to the pile --

From Off Screen

MANIA

Before Bed, do you need anything?

Alora freezes for a beat

ALORA

I'm fine

From off screen

MANIA

Okay then, good night.

Alora

Goodnight.

Alora looks at the tissue paper, then closes the box and tucks it away.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Alora is rehearsing her routine without music. She wears a long-sleeved fitted top and wrap skirt over a leotard and tights with ballet pumps. Her hair is in a dishevelled bun.

Mania watches carefully, observing each step. She's wearing athleisure wear; leggings, fitted top and trainers.

Alora keeps making mistakes. Mania notices her struggling, and walks over to Alora, interrupting her by putting a gentle hand on her shoulder. They look at each other for a moment, Alora nods and sighs.

Slow pan to side and back

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY - CONTINUED

Alora is now mid routine practising again. She is still making mistakes, this time she becomes more breathless she starts to become paler. MANIA notices her breathing and her paleness, just when Mania is about to say stop, Alora falls to the ground.

INT. Alora's BEDROOM - EVENING

Alora is asleep in bed under the covers, an oxygen mask is over her mouth and nose. Mania sits on the edge of the bed next to her, facing away. She looks tired with sore red eyes.

Alora wakes up slowly.

MANIA

I'm sorry, I should've stopped you sooner.
I can't bear to look at you like this.
I wish you would stop--

Alora interrupts her abruptly.

ALORA

Mum no I don't want to stop.
I have already accepted this is how
it's gonna be for me when
I found out...

MANIA

It still hurts to see you like this,
But all I can do is make your last wish come true.

Alora hugs Mania, and puts her head on her chest as Mania runs her hands through Alora hairs to make her feel safe.

ALORA

Sorry mum and thank you.

INT.DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Alora & Mania arrive at the studio in their casual wear. Outside the door, JULIET (20s) is packing her bag on the floor.

Juliet is wearing casual ballet wear in blues and greens. She wears heavier make up than Alora and is wearing more jewellery. Her hair is in a loose bun, with fly-aways.

Juliet looks up, noticing Alora and Mania first. She stands as she speaks.

JULIET

Hello Alora, it's surprising to
see you here, I never thought I'd
be running to you.

ALORA

Hi JULIET, it's been awhile-

JULIET

Yes of course, it's lovely to see you
again, I heard about your condition
it must be really hard for you.

Alora reacts with a subtle eye roll and a curt response

ALORA

Sorry but I have to go, I'm rehearsing the ending act for the show.

Juliet looks at her really confused and stops her.

JULIET

Alora wait, what do you mean the
the ending act? Will you even be able to make it?

Alora looks at her really confused manner. Juliet gets a leaflet from
her bag and gives it to Alora.

JULIET

See for yourself

Before she leaves Juliet smiles sly and mischievous, hinting it like
a joke and leaves out the entrance, then Alora opens the leaflet and
sees Juliet playing her and Alora is the understudy.

After seeing the leaflet, she starts to feel dizzy, and suddenly she
falls to the ground.

FADE IN BLACK

INT. ALORA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Alora wakes up after her fall, and sees MANIA next to her as well
along with her medication, mask and oxygen tank. Alora tries to get

up and MANIA helps get her up. Alora doesn't make eye contact with her.

MANIA

Take some rest okay

Alora hugs MANIA, Alora tears well up in her eyes and she can't hold back her tears and they fall down MANIA shoulder.

FADE INTO BLACK

MONTAGE OF ALORA SICKNESS

(Night) Alora in her bed taking her pill with her water.

(Night) ALORA coughs getting more violent

(Night) ALORA sleeping and waking up from coughing and heavy breathing

(Morning) Mania helps with her clothing and her brushing her hair

(Morning) Mania bring her fruit salad to her bed

END OF ALORA SICKNESS MONTAGE

INT. ALORA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alora is just laying in her bedroom staring at the ceiling. Mania comes into the room, her hands full of lily and baby breath flowers, a small card and a medium size gift box. Mania's smile is soft and gentle, full of kindness and empathy. Alora sits up and moves the camcorder out of the way to make Mania sit next to her.

Mania gives Alora the flowers and the card.

MANIA

Open it.

Alora gently opens her card as she does, beaming with happiness to see her ballet shoes in the box, with a note saying break a leg and energetically gets up from her bed and hugs Mania.

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

Juliet is getting ready for her performance, she just came out with her for dress fitting and putting on her ballet shoes.

INTERCUT WITH ALORA

INT. ALORA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alora is getting ready for her last performance, Mania is helping her with her dress and the shoes, Mania doing Alora's hair.

As Mania leaves the room, Alora is writing a note but we only see her back.

INTERCUT WITH JULIET

INT. STAGE WINGS - DAY

Juliet is waiting at the Wings. The light from the stage changes. Music starts playing (Same song Alora has been rehearsing to). Juliet inhales about to go on the stage with full confidence, then suddenly a hand grabs her arm - it is Alora. Juliet looks at Alora really shocked.

ALORA

Juliet I know you want
this as well, This could my last
chance. So please let me do
This.

Juliet is speechless for a moment, without saying anything she grabbed Alora's hands and looked at her with kindness in her eyes and nodded, happily hugged Alora as she got on stage.

INT. STAGE - DAY

MUSIC GETS LOUDER

Alora, on the stage, wearing ethereal dress, is dancing to classical music from 1892. she flows with the music each move she takes and it becomes more dramatic.

The crowd is cheering, Mania in the backstage looking at Alora sincerely and she starts to become really emotional, as the music finishes.

MUSIC STOPS

INT. STAGE WINGS - DAY

Juliet is really impressed and starts clapping at her end of performance.

INT. STAGE - DAY

(V.O) Crowds start becoming louder

Alora bows as roses land on stage. Alora catches the white rose, as she coughs up blood she lets her last breath and she falls to the ground when the curtain closes.

MANIA V.O

Alora, Alora!

INT. Alora's Bedroom - Day

Mania is packing Alora things and the room starts to feel like it's empty and there is a box under Alora's bed. It's one of the old camcorder from Alora's childhood. She sees a note saying please see this, under it has Alora's name on it. Mania looks at it with surprise and on the camcorder. Then she sees Alora right before she leaves for her last performance.

INT. Bedroom - Camcorder - DAY

ALORA

Hello Mum, how long did it take
to find this? Mmm.

Mania starts to have teary eyes, but Mania tries to stop herself.

ALORA

Before I leave for this performance,
I want to say this,
over 20 years you took care of me.
This is the goodbye I never wished I'd
Have to say, but it is what
Is. My life will never be the same
Without you, but I'll be
Watching you over as
I carry you in my heart forever.
until we meet again. So thank you so much
for everything you have
done for me.

Well you will see me shine bright today.
Love you.

Alora looks excited and turns off the camcorder, Mania at the last part of Alora saying thank you she covers her mouth and her tears start running down her cheeks. Mania couldn't hold back her tears any longer and next to Mania is Alora's ballet shoes, she picks it up and hugs it.

FADE OUT

THE END