

Never Forgotten

written by

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INT. HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY WARD - DAY

ANNE SOLACE, 25, nurse, love for kids, is looking at a nursing home site on her laptop. After casually scrolling for another few seconds, she closes out of the window and shuts her laptop. A split second before it fully shuts, the image of her 6 year old brother on her background can be seen.

She then picks up, looks over, and then sets down a clipboard onto the nurse's station's counter. She walks over to the vitals machine and begins wheeling it towards one of the patient's rooms. She knocks on the door and enters.

INT. SICK CHILD'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Anne enters the room, rolling the vitals machine in before her. There is a SICK CHILD, 10 years old, sitting on the bed, tears silently falling from his face. Anne walks over.

ANNE  
(gently and concerned)  
Are you okay? Does it hurt  
somewhere?

She puts a hand on the sick child's shoulder. The child curls up more in the blankets.

SICK CHILD  
(sniffling)  
I want my mommy. It hurts.

Anne glances at the clock.

ANNE  
I'm sure your parents will be here  
soon. Where does it hurt?

The sick child doesn't answer. Anne rubs his shoulder one more time and waits another moment for an answer. The sick child cries harder. She then gets up and walks over to the computer in the room. She clicks on a few buttons on the screen, ordering some pain medication. Then Anne walks back over to the vitals machine.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
I'm going to take your vitals now,  
okay?

She walks the machine over and takes out the blood pressure cuff.

Over her shoulder, slightly out of view, a small part of a ghost boy can be seen sitting in a chair.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Can I see your arm, please?

Still sobbing, the boy gives her his arm. She carefully attaches the cuff to it. She grabs the oxygen sensor and sees that the sick child already has his finger out, as if used to it. She attaches it and starts the machine.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
(In a kind voice)  
Just relax now.

The child's sobs calm a little.

SICK CHILD  
(still sniffing)  
Mommy...

Anne grabs the thermometer from the machine and attaches a disposable cover on it.

ANNE  
(gentle)  
I'm going to take your temperature  
real quick, okay?

She gingerly places the thermometer into his mouth and looks away as she waits. She sees the blurry ghost of a little boy sitting in the chair and flinches. She squints to try to see clearer. A bead of sweat forms on her face as a look of doubt but uncertainty shows on her face. The machine beeps and she blinks. The ghost is gone. Anne has a deep look on her face, as if she's remembering something sad from long ago. She removes the thermometer and throws away the disposable cover.

As if it came in waves, the sick child begins crying a little harder once again. This causes tears to form in Anne's eyes. She quickly records the vitals.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
(comforting)  
Everything is going to be okay. You  
did a great job.

Anne bends down next to him with a sad expression. She touches his arm. The sick child's breaths become a bit heavier as he sobs. Anne looks away for a moment as if to compose herself and then looks back.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Let me get some water for you,  
okay?

The sick child nods through his sobs. Anne gets up and walks towards the door, rolling the vitals machine in front of her. She wipes away a tear from her eye before exiting the room.

INT. ANNE'S FAMILY HOUSE - NIGHT

Anne walks in through the door and enters the house. She hangs up her keys and takes off her shoes.

ANNE

I'm home.

Anne walks over to her room. She sees her GRANDMA lying on the couch. She enters her room with her bag and exits without it. Then, she walks over to the kitchen.

Her MOM, hardworking and sensitive, is cooking at the stove.

MOM

Hi, Annie. How was your day?

Anne goes to grab bowls and utensils out of the cupboards.

ANNE

It was fine. How's grandma doing?

Anne begins setting the table.

MOM

She's okay. She made a little fuss about food earlier, but thankfully she was able to eat a little.

Anne nods then goes to grab some medicine out of the cupboard. She sets it on the table. Then, she walks over to her grandma and slowly helps her sit up and transfer to a wheelchair. As she rolls her over, her mom carries over a pot of soup and sets it on the table.

They sit down and begin distributing the soup to their bowls. There is a moment of nothing but the sound of utensils clanking against the bowls. Anne picks up a spoon full of soup for her grandma. She blows on it and then feeds her. Her grandma doesn't put up a fuss and has her mouth open just slightly. Anne does this a couple more times. Her mom quietly eats.

ANNE

Mom,  
(Hesitantly)  
I've been thinking..

Her mom looks up with a serious expression. Anne sets down the spoon and looks down.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Don't you think...it's time we move  
grandma into a nursing home?

A brief pause.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I think that would take off some of  
the burden on us. And then maybe I  
could move out-

MOM

No.

Anne tenses.

ANNE

But, I think that would be bes-

MOM

I said no.

Her mom's hands form into fists.

ANNE

(a little quieter)

But...why not? I think that it would  
help us a lot-

Her mom slams her hand on the table.

MOM

Stop it Annie, I know what you're  
trying to do. You just want to send  
away grandma so that you can move  
out and leave me here alone.

Anne stands up.

ANNE

No, that's-

MOM

You want to leave me just like your  
father did. Just like Jay...

Her mom's tears up. She puts her head in her hands. Anne sits  
back down.

ANNE  
(defeated and sad)  
...forget I said anything.

They finish dinner in silence.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anne enters her bedroom and turns on her lamp. It is neat and minimal. Medical books litter her desk and shelves. An old PHOTO of her parents, her brother and her when she was 8 is sitting on a shelf.

Anne goes over and plops into bed. She lays her head on her pillow and spaces out for a moment. She picks up her phone and begins scrolling through old photos of her family. She lands on a photo of her late brother before closing her eyes and falling asleep.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM? - LATER INTO THE NIGHT

Anne wakes up feeling groggy. She sits up and lets her eyes adjust. There is a faint glow on her face. She looks over to the center of the room. There is a mysterious floating mirror.

Anne stands up and hesitantly walks over. She looks in and sees a reflection of her 8 year old self. She hesitantly brings a hand up to touch the mirror. Her hand goes through it. She pulls back, shocked.

She feels a pull coming from the mirror and reaches her hand back out. Then she walks through the mirror.

INT. DREAM WORLD - TIME UNKNOWN

Anne, her 8 year old self, is floating, then falling. Rainbow streaks of wind whiz by her and stars float past her head. Her old teddy bear, HARRIET, followed by a drawing of SEÑOR DON GATO, and 3 illustrated goats come up to her and play with her before disappearing into nothing. There is a faint sound of music that can be heard.

Anne giggles. She holds out her arms. The wind still blows. The things around her fade.

Past memories come and fade as they fill the void:

## INSERT - SERIES OF PAST MEMORIES

—Anne and her 6 year old brother, JAYLON, are playing in a sandbox together, Jaylon knocks her sand castle down and Anne gets mad.

—Anne and Jaylon are jumping in puddles in the rain, splashing each other, laughing.

—They are cooking with their mom. They fight over who gets to stir the cookie dough. Their mom scolds them.

—They are playing on their DS's together. Jaylon loses and gets upset while Anne jumps around, celebrating.

## BACK TO SCENE

Anne smiles and lets out a giggle. She continues to stare.

## INSERT - SERIES OF MORE PAST EVENTS

—Jaylon collapses outside one of the shops at the mall while they were shopping as a family.

—Anne, now 9, peeks into her parent's bedroom. Her dad is hugging her mom. They are both sitting on their bed, crying.

—Anne is visiting Jaylon at the hospital. She holds her mom's hand as they enter the hospital room. Jaylon is sleeping and does not look good.

—Anne is in the living room, playing with her toy cars alone.

—Jaylon comes home. He is laying in his room while their parents tend to him. Anne tries asking her parents something, but they just motion for her to stay out.

—Anne is sitting in the corner of her room, crying to herself.

## BACK TO SCENE

Anne turns her head away in a grimace, but the image follows her gaze.

## INSERT - ANOTHER SERIES OF PAST MEMORIES

—Anne's parents bring her to the hospital again. They motion for her to stay seated and don't listen to her.

She gets up frustrated and begins yelling at Jaylon angrily. She hits his legs before her parents pull her back.

—Anne's parents are crying, everyone is wearing black. She is too short to see anything else.

—Anne, now 10, is in her bed, crying under the covers. She gets up and peeks her head into the kitchen. Her parents are yelling at each other. Anne goes into Jaylon's room. It is untouched. She grabs his old DS and holds it as she lies down on his bed and falls asleep.

—Anne's dad is leaving the house. The front door shuts and she sees her mom turn around and walk the other way.

—Anne, now 11, is sitting at her desk. A blank expression on her face, then tears up. She puts her head down.

#### BACK TO SCENE

Anne is crying now. Everything melts away and the wind dies down. Anne now finds herself standing in the backyard of her old house. There is a slight drizzle. Jaylon, 6, stands in the middle of the yard, stick in hand, wearing a YELLOW RAINCOAT. He is poking at the ground.

Jaylon looks up.

JAYLON

Annie!

Jaylon drops his stick and runs over to Anne. He gives her a big hug.

JAYLON (CONT'D)

Annie! Annie! Look what I found!

He holds up a worm to her. He giggles. Then he looks up and sees Anne's face.

JAYLON (CONT'D)

(in kind of a baby accent)

What's wrong Annie? Don't cry.

(looking around)

Here! I'll give you this one and catch another one!

More tears fall from Anne's eyes.

ANNE

Jay...I've missed you.



JAYLON

What do you mean Annie? I saw you  
only a few hours ago.

Anne falls to her knees and hugs Jaylon. She buries her face  
into his chest. She is now her current 25 year old self.

ANNE

(through tears)  
I'm so sorry Jay.

Jaylon pats her head.

JAYLON

There, there. Don't cry.

ANNE

Do you hate me? Do you resent me  
for what I did?

JAYLON

Why would I hate you? I love you  
Annie!

Anne lets out a little burst of laughter between her sobs.

ANNE

I love you too, Jay.  
(pause and then in a quiet  
voice)  
I miss you.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - LATER INTO THE NIGHT

Anne wakes up with tears streaming. She gets up and wipes her  
face. Her lamp is still on. She grabs the picture of her  
family on her shelf and lies back down. She hugs the picture  
until she falls back asleep.

THE END