

"MARBLES"

Animated Short

Written by

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PRESENT DAY:

INT. HOME - KITCHEN - RIGHT BEFORE MIDNIGHT

LISA AKA MOM (52 years old, curly brown hair, blue eyes, short/round figure, laugh lines around her eyes and mouth) is sitting at the kitchen table, tears rolling down her face. Pen in hand she's reading through a document titled "Last Will and Testament". She tries to wipe off the tears that have fallen on it. Then she looks up at a photo of her daughter on the refrigerator.

(O.S. At the stroke of midnight a bright light comes from the living area) The light engulfs mom briefly, it becomes dark again, and she begins to cry.

17 YEARS AGO: INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Mom and BOB AKA DAD (early 40s, brown hair w/some white, tall/fit, hazel eyes) are happily checking out of the hospital when Dad is given a JAR OF MARBLES labeled "Chloe". The jar is heavy and the marbles are various colors. Dad struggles to hold the jar and push the wheelchair out of the hospital simultaneously. Mom is not phased and smiles down at Chloe (newborn girl) as she's being pushed in the wheelchair. They go through the automatic sliding doors to go home.

INT. HOME - ENTRYWAY - DAY

They walk through the front door. Mom is holding Chloe while Dad is carrying the car seat, JAR OF MARBLES, and various bags. Dad places the JAR OF MARBLES next to the jars labeled "Lisa" and "Bob". The jars have varying amounts of marbles in them. Close up of JAR OF MARBLES.

INT. HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mom and Dad look down lovingly into the bassinet where Chloe is sleeping soundly. Looking both exhausted and happy they kiss each other goodnight. They both turn off the lights on their nightstands, lay down, and fall asleep.

INT. HOME - ENTRYWAY - MIDNIGHT

Next to the three JARS OF MARBLES is a clock. At the stroke of midnight one marble in each jar disintegrates into bright sparkly dust and the dust disappears.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MONTAGE BEGINS:

INT. HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Chloe is 1 year old (brown straight hair, blue eyes) taking her first steps. Mom and Dad clap. Mom picks Chloe up and kisses Chloe's cheeks many times. Dad ruffles Chloe's hair and hugs them both. Chloe laughs.

INT. HOME - CHLOE'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

(O.S. At the stroke of midnight one marble in each jar disintegrates into bright sparkly dust and the dust disappears.) Chloe is sucking her thumb. From the crack in the door light shines briefly then fades away.

INT. HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mom, Dad, and Chloe (8 years old) are sitting on the couch watching a movie laughing. Chloe falls asleep and dad carries her upstairs. Mom follows rubbing Dad's lower back up the stairs.

EXT. HOME - FRONT YARD - MIDNIGHT

(O.S. At the stroke of midnight one marble in each jar disintegrates into bright sparkly dust and the dust disappears.) The lower level windows light up and the same thing happens to all the houses in the neighborhood.

EXT. HOME

Montage of day turning to midnight. Each midnight the windows light up as the marbles disintegrate. The montage starts slow then speeds up until "Present Day".

PRESENT DAY:

INT. HOME - MASTER BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING

Mom walks up to the bathroom mirror, bags under her eyes. She stops and stares at her reflection. Tears well in her eyes. A few moments later, she shakes her head and takes one in/out heavy breath then proceeds to start applying lotions. Dad comes in lifts her chin and kisses her softly. He brushes her hair behind her ears and hugs her. In their embrace, Dad's face is full of sadness.

INT. HOME - KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Mom is cooking breakfast at the stove. Chloe comes downstairs and starts rummaging through the fridge. Before Mom can get a word out, Chloe runs out of the house, slams the front door closed. Mom runs over to the window.

INT. HOME - ENTRYWAY WINDOW - EARLY MORNING

Mom watches as Chloe opens the car door, throws her backpack in the backseat, and drives off to school with her friend.

CHLOE LEAVING HOUSE MONTAGE BEGINS:

INT. HOME ENTRY WAY - MORNING

Several days in a row Chloe is in a rush going to school before Mom has a chance to spend time with her in the morning. Each time Mom gets more sad and depressed.

INT. MOM'S BEDROOM - MORNING

One morning, Mom doesn't try to stop Chloe in the morning to say bye, instead she's in her bedroom looking through old family photo albums reminiscing about the fun times they have had as a family. She hears the door slam and continues to sift through the photos.

CHLOE LEAVING HOUSE MONTAGE ENDS

INT. HOME - ENTRYWAY - MORNING

Chloe is rushing down the stairs, grabs her backpack and starts heading out the door. Something catches her eye. She rushes over to the jars of marbles.

INT. HOME - JARS OF MARBLES

Chloe looks at Mom's jar and there are only 7 marbles left. She grabs them all in her hand and puts them back slowly breathing heavily in the process.

CHLOE

No...NO!

Chloe panics. She grabs handfuls of marbles from her jar and throws them into Mom's. She keeps doing that several times, breathing heavily, then stops and stares hoping it worked. Tears start running down her cheeks. Then the marbles slowly slide back where they belong, in Chloe's jar, making clinking sounds as they make their way there. Leaving Mom's with 7 marbles again.

Chloe drops to her knees with one hand on Mom's JAR OF MARBLES and begins sobbing. Mom and Dad are in the doorway looking down at her. Mom kneels down and sits on the floor with Chloe and grabs her in an embrace. They both start crying as Dad kneels down and embraces both of them as well.

FAMILY MONTAGE: INT. DINER - DAY

Mom, Dad, and Chloe are drinking milk shakes talking and laughing together.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Mom, Dad, and Chloe are on the couch laughing and eating popcorn. Mom throws some popcorn at Chloe.

INT. HOME - MORNING

Mom, Dad, and Chloe are eating breakfast together. Chloe lays her head on Mom's shoulder. Mom lays her head on top of Chloe's and lightly grazes her face with her hand. Then kisses the top of Chloe's head.

FAMILY TIME MONTAGE ENDS

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Mom is looking down at her JAR OF MARBLES with only one left in it. Dad comes up behind her to embrace her, then Mom turns around and hugs him tight. Both are crying. Chloe comes in from taking the trash out and runs up to join them.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mom and Dad are in their bed together looking at each other. Dad gently brushes Mom's face putting her hair behind her ears. Chloe knocks on the door and stands in the door way with a sad look on her face.

Mom beckons her to join them. Chloe jumps in. Mom is in the middle while Chloe and Dad cuddle up to her.

INT. ENTRYWAY - MIDNIGHT

Close up of digital clock showing the seconds until it finally hits midnight.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

When clock strikes midnight, Mom lights up brightly.

MOM

I love you...

Mom disintegrates into sparkly dust that engulfs the whole bedroom and lights up the whole house. As the dust makes it's way out of the house it's seen floating up into the sky.