

WAFFLES

Written by

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Dedicated to Waffles: 2015-2020.

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

LUCIE (10) -- bright and cheerful little girl, also shy -- walks through the door carrying a BACKPACK bigger than herself and a single VALENTINE which is obviously store bought. She heads into the-

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

-where BETH (40s) -- Lucie's Mom, sweet -- is cooking dinner. Beth hugs Lucie tight, squeezing her and giving her kisses.

BETH
How was school? Did you hand out
your Valentines?

Lucie nods.

BETH (CONT'D)
How many suitors do you have this
year?

Lucie slides the one Valentine over, and shrugs.

LUCIE
Just one.

Saddened, Beth goes to give Lucie another kiss and hug.

BETH
Well, you haven't gotten *mine* yet,
and mine's the best.

Beth slides a CARD over to Lucie. Lucie opens it, and inside of a cheesy card is a FIVE DOLLAR BILL and a DRAWING OF A FISH. Lucie grabs the money excitedly and hugs Beth.

LUCIE
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Thank you! I love you! Thank you!

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Lucie is aggressively shaking her PIGGYBANK trying to get every last coin out. She then stuffs the bill in a ZIPLOC BAG, along with the rest of her coins. On the bag she writes "FISH" in SHARPIE.

EXT. STREET/OUTSIDE FISH STORE - DAY

With her MONEY BAG in one hand, Lucie is dragging Beth with the other. She can't contain her excitement.

BETH
Just getting one fish, okay Luc?

No response.

BETH (CONT'D)
Lucie?

Lucie stops and turns back.

BETH (CONT'D)
One.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lucie is now sitting in the backseat of Beth's car with a huge smile on her face and a GOLDFISH IN A BAG in her hands.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucie is lying on her bedroom floor, the fish now in a SMALL TANK also on the floor. She's poking the sides of the tank, laughing as the fish bumps against the glass. Beth comes in.

BETH
C'mon, lights out.

Lucie picks up the tank and puts it on her DRESSER. There's a little BLANKET next to the tank.

LUCIE
You need to tuck both of us in.

BETH
Does she have a name yet?

LUCIE
He is named Waffles.

BETH
Waffles? I like it.

Beth tucks Lucie in, and pulls the little blanket over Waffles tank. Beth gives Lucie a kiss on the cheek and then turns off the lights and shuts the door.

INT./EXT. CAR/SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Lucie's holding Waffles, back in A BAG.

BETH

Maybe we should leave Waffles at home today.

LUCIE

No!

BETH

I don't think Mr. Meadow is gonna want a fish distracting you.

LUCIE

Waffles doesn't distract me. He actually helps me study.

Lucie gets out and sprints into school with Waffles before Beth can say anything else.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

We hear the sounds of kids playing. Lucie has Waffles in her hands.

MONTAGE:

-Lucie is on the swing set, Waffles is in the BABY SWING next to her.

-Waffles and Lucie go down the slide.

-Waffles and Lucie play hop scotch.

The WHISTLE BLOWS, recess is now over. Heading back towards the school Waffles is hit with a TENNIS BALL and falls on the ground BREAKING THE BAG and KILLING WAFFLES.

BOY (O.S.)

Freak!

LUCIE

No!

Bawling, Lucie scoops Waffles up off the ground and runs to the nurse.

INT. NURSES OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

NURSE GREENE (50s) -- sweet old lady -- is startled by a crying Lucie with a dead Waffles in her hands. She gets up and heads towards Lucie.

NURSE GREENE
Oh, what happened much'kin?

LUCIE
(Through sniffles)
T...hey kil...led hi...m.

Nurse Greene takes and places Waffles on a paper towel.

Lucie notices another little girl is sitting in the corner with a bloody nose. She's holding an ice pack to her nose, and there's a tissue shoved in one of the nostrils.

GIRL
Are you okay?

LUCIE
(Through sniffles)
No, my fish...h...he di...ed.

GIRL
I'm so sorry. Do you want a hug?

LUCIE
(Through sniffles)
Sure.

The little girl hugs Lucie.

LUCIE (CONT'D)
(Through sniffles)
Thank you.

NURSE GREENE
(GIRL)
Make sure to keep your head back.

The little girl doesn't listen. Lucie finally calms down.

LUCIE
Does your nose hurt?

GIRL
Not really. I get bloody noses all the time!

LUCIE
That's so cool! I've never had one.

GIRL
You've never had a bloody nose?

LUCIE
I wish!

GIRL
I'm Mara!

LUCIE
I'm Lucie.

Nurse Greene takes the ice pack off Mara's face, and cleans the blood off with paper towels.

NURSE GREENE
All clean. I'll be here if it starts bleeding again.

MARA
Thank you!
(Lucie)
You should have a funeral for your fish.

Lucie likes that idea.

INT. BATHROOM STALL - CONTINUOUS

We see the feet of Lucie and Mara under a bathroom stall.

LUCIE
Won't that hurt him?

MARA
Don't worry, this is how fish go back in the ocean!

LUCIE
Really?

MARA
Mhm! My fish died last month too, but now he's swimming in the ocean. Maybe our fish will be friends too!

LUCIE
Maybe they will.

We hear a FLUSH.

FADE OUT.