

Photograph

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

On the mantelpiece, a picture of Charlie and another small boy, LEWIS LEFT (8), a mischievous, yet kind looking boy, are smiling and kneeling with hands on each other's shoulders. A small white Labrador, BLU (4 months) looks like he is having the time of his life lays in front of them, happily smiling with his tongue out.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

CHARLIE PETERS (8), a small shy boy wearing a black t-shirt, sits alone in a large puddle in the middle of the lawn, sad.

Thoughtlessly, he wheels back and forth a small toy truck.

INT. HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

On the coffee table, a "sorry for your loss" card has been signed by Charlie's parents.

A gap has been left blank, awaiting Charlie's signature.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Charlie picks up the truck.

He stands and slowly makes his way toward the house.

Through the kitchen window, Charlie can see his parents, SAM (38) and KATE (37) PETERS, both upset and distraught in conversation, at times point outside, indicating to him.

BLU (O.S.)

Woof!

Charlie turns around somewhat interested, but there is nothing there.

He stares down at the muddy floor and puffs.

He continues his wander back to the house.

BLU (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Woof!

Charlie turns slower this time.

Blu the Labrador bounces excitedly towards Charlie, who gazes at the dog with some joy, but still some sadness.

BLU (CONT'D)
Woof! Woof!

Blu notices Charlie is distressed and bounds to the nearest stick, picks it up and then drops it in front of Charlie.

CHARLIE
I don't want to go to secondary
school alone, Blu.

Blu tilts his head at Charlie, curious and compassionate.

Blu then jumps up and down very enthusiastically, wanting to play and eager to get Charlie involved.

Charlie drops his toy truck, casually picks up the stick and throws it.

Blu chases after it and retrieves it to Charlie's feet.

Blu distances himself from the stick, readying himself.

Charlie sighs, picks up the stick and lobs it even further this time, into the bushes at the back of the garden.

Blu dives into the bushes out of sight.

Charlie, glum and bored, waits.

And waits.

And waits.

No sign of Blu.

Charlie's anxiety increases as Blu doesn't return.

Charlie heads to the bushes where he threw the stick and battles against them, creating the rustling of leaves and the snapping of twigs as he gets closer and closer -

BACK OF GARDEN

Silence.

Small trees darken most of the area, and only some small rays of sunshine are visible in the clearing.

Rotten leaves and twigs are scattered on the floor.

BLU (O.S.)
(very distant)
Woof!

Charlie spins around.

Still no sign of Blu.

CHARLIE

Where are you, boy? I need you...

Charlie searches and then loses his footing on a tree root, falling on the ground.

He surveys up at the tree and notices a small halo shaped hole in the tree with sunlight beaming into it.

Curious, Charlie crawls towards it.

He reaches inside the hole.

He picks out a small battered photograph.

The photograph's contents are still visible.

It is the same as the picture in the lounge: Charlie and Lewis are kneeling with hands on each other's shoulders. Blu lays in front of them.

A single tear falls down Charlie's cheek.

BLU (O.S.)

(very distant)

Woof!

He notices writing on the other side.

He turns it over and reads the message: "Just because we are gone, does not mean we are not here. Lewis and Blu."

Another tear falls down Charlie's cheek, but this time, there is a mixture of sadness and happiness on his face.

He kneels up and eyes the photograph.

CHARLIE

Both of you will never really be gone.

Charlie turns to his left.

A ghost-like Lewis wearing pure white laughs, smiles at Charlie and puts his hand on his shoulder. Charlie beams to his right. A ghost-like Blu licks Charlie's face. Charlie laughs. Blu lays in front of them, with his tongue out, smiling. Charlie puts his hand on Lewis' shoulder.

INT. HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

A ray of sunlight hits the mantelpiece where the photograph of Charlie, Lewis and Blu rests.

FADE OUT.

THE END