

I Am Still Here

Written by

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INT. NURSING HOME ROOM- DAY

ROSA CASTRO (70), wakes up confused on a hospital bed. Her daughter, PERLA (35) sits bedside.

DR. JACKSON (50) and a nurse, MAGGIE (40), stand over her.

DR. JACKSON

You are gonna be ok, Mrs. Castro.  
You'll be here until you get  
stronger and better.

ROSA

When am I going home?

DR. JACKSON

It depends on physical therapy...  
occupational therapy. Hopefully in  
6 months.

MAGGIE

You got plenty of support here... And  
you have your daughter.

PERLA

(ear to ear smile)  
I just want the best for her.

DR. JACKSON

(to Rosa)  
You are lucky to have her.

Perla caresses Rosa's hands.

DR. JACKSON (CONT'D)

I'll check in with you tomorrow,  
Mrs. Castro. Call the nurses'  
station if you need anything.

Dr. Jackson and Maggie leave.

ROSA

Sweetie, can you put a blanket over  
my feet?

Perla grabs a small blanket and carelessly throws it on  
Rosa's legs.

ROSA (CONT'D)

My feet... can you...

PERLA

What mom?! I gotta go.

Perla heads to the dresser and goes through Rosa's wallet. She takes out cash and bank cards and stashes them in her pocket away from Rosa's eyesight.

ROSA  
Ok. Are you coming tomorrow?

PERLA  
Yeah.

Perla leaves.

EXT. ATM MACHINE - DAY

Perla withdraws \$500.

INT. NURSING HOME ROOM - DAY

Picture frames of Perla and Rosa together sit on a nightstand. Happier times. Rosa is on her bed as Maggie holds a cell phone to her ear.

MAGGIE  
(Putting down the phone)  
She's not answering.

ROSA  
Try again. She must be busy.

Maggie tries again.

INT. PERLA'S HOME - DAY

Perla watches TV. Phone rings. It's Rosa. She declines the call. Phone rings again. Ignores it.

INT. NURSING HOME ROOM -DAY

Maggie stands behind Rosa as Rosa tries to use a walker.

EXT. ROSA'S HOME - DAY

A REAL ESTATE AGENT places a For Sale sign on property and walks back to a smiling Perla.

INT. NURSING HOME ROOM - DAY

Rosa appears in pain. Maggie crushes pills in a water cup.

MAGGIE  
This should help out with the pain.

ROSA  
I hope so.

Maggie gives Rosa water.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Perla is on her computer. Phone rings. She sees caller ID. It's Rosa. She declines call and continues typing.

SUPERIMPOSE: 10 MONTHS LATER

INT. NURSING HOME ROOM - DAY

Christmas decorations decorate Rosa's room. Rosa sits in her wheelchair looking outside her window, patiently waiting. On her lap, a Christmas gift labeled Perla. Melancholy all over her face.

Maggie walks up next to her but we only see Maggie's legs.

ROSA  
She'll be here soon.

Dead silence.

ROSA (CONT'D)  
(voice cracks)  
Because I'm still here.

Maggie puts her hand on Rosa's shoulder. Rosa puts her hand on top of hers.

INT. NURSING HOME ROOM - DAY

A dimly lighted room. An empty wheelchair is next to an empty hospital bed. Maggie looks on and sobs as two FUNERAL HOME GUYS zip up a body bag and place it on a gurney.

THE END