

CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS

Written by

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EXT. STATE PARK - TRAILHEAD - WINTER - DAY

Snow on the ground. Morning light streams through the naked trees. Few cars in the parking area.

JOSH, early 30's, fidgets in the cab of his truck. He stuffs a thermos, lighter, tarp, other odds and ends, into a small backpack.

A station wagon pulls into the parking lot.

Josh pulls on his gloves, scarf, hat, and winter coat, and gets out of his truck.

Steam from his breath as he exhales.

REBECCA, early 30's, sweater, hat, mittens-- underdressed. She bursts out of her car and tackles Josh. He's strong enough to catch all her enthusiasm. But it's a lot.

REBECCA

Oh my God! Josh!

She squeezes. Josh hugs back. Old friends.

JOSH

Hi Miss Rebecca.

She finally lets go. He puts her back down on her feet. She looks up at him, blushing, overcome with feelings.

Turning it to playful stoke.

REBECCA

Ready?

JOSH

It's really cold.

REBECCA

(laughs)

Yeah, it's really cold.

(beat)

We could just go to a cafe, or--

JOSH

No, let's do this. I mean. If you want to. I have extra clothes if you need?

REBECCA

I got this--

Rebecca runs back to her car. Josh follows.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
 Ryan got me this trench coat--

Rebecca rummages through the car.

JOSH
 Ryan.

Rebecca doesn't hear.

REBECCA
 --this trench coat puffy thing for
 Christmas. It's ridiculous. But
 it's really warm.

Rebecca finds the coat.

JOSH
 Looks like you're all set.

REBECCA
 Let's go then.

EXT. FIREROAD TRAIL - LATER

Walking side by side. Josh with his small bag. Rebecca in her puffy trench coat. It's huge. Like a tube skirt made of puffy baffles.

REBECCA
 What's it been? Ten years? Eleven?

JOSH
 Eight. On the bridge. You brought
 me water. To apologize.

REBECCA
 (remembering)
 Oh Josh. I was really lost.

JOSH
 But you've been good? In London--

Peeking through the branches. Rebecca abruptly runs off trail.

REBECCA
 Josh! Look!

Josh follows Rebecca off trail to a

EXT. STONE DAM - RIVER - CONTINUOUS

REBECCA
I gave you that apple.

JOSH
(laughing)
I bit a worm in half. Almost puked.
Threw the apple into those bushes.

REBECCA
It was off my parents' tree. The
best apples.

JOSH
I've always sliced my apples since
then.

Josh jumps up onto the stone wall. Begins balancing across
and over the cold waters.

Rebecca follows. Restricted some by her long coat. She
manages pretty well.

Stumbling towards the end of the wall. Josh catches her hand.
Mitten in glove.

Rebecca looks at Josh again. Same affection.

REBECCA
I think about you a lot Josh. Every
time I'm in woods like these.

JOSH
Seems like you've got a bunch good
stuff happening for you.

REBECCA
Yeah.

Rebecca continues walking into the

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Blazing off trail. Josh follows.

REBECCA
Caleb is so wonderful. You have to
meet him.

JOSH
Caleb. How old is he?

Rebecca turns back to Josh.

REBECCA
Six! He's adventurous. Already's
gotten stitches three times!
Reminds me of you.

JOSH
I was always scared. Scared of
ghosts, monsters, demons.

REBECCA
You had that army of stuffed
animals.

JOSH
Haha. My army.

They continue walking.

REBECCA
Caleb sees spirits too.

JOSH
I'm sorry.

REBECCA
No. It's special.

Seeing something ahead.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Oh my god! Josh!

Rebecca runs ahead again. Josh continues walking til he
catches up with her at a collection of

EXT. STICK FORTS - CONTINUOUS

JOSH
Holy shit. They're still here.

REBECCA
Twenty years. Longer?

JOSH
It looks like other kids have added
to them.

Rebecca crawls inside one.

JOSH (CONT'D)

This is really cool. It's like
visiting a house you used to live
in.

Rebecca starts pulling dried leaves into the stick shelter.
Josh peeks in.

REBECCA

Get more dry leaves.

Josh collects leaves outside as Rebecca continues pulling
leaves in from inside the shelter.

JOSH

I visited my old house in Parkside.
That was different. Felt small and
distant.

(beat)

I also went to your old house.

REBECCA

(sticks her head out)

You did?

JOSH

The grass is the same. Yellow-
green. Straw-y.

REBECCA

Did you go inside?

JOSH

What? No.

Rebecca grabs Josh's hand and pulls him inside the shelter.
She begins burying the two of them in the leaves.

JOSH (CONT'D)

But I remember your bed. It was
lofted. And in that nook.

Rebecca continues to bury Josh. She tickles his face with a
leaf.

REBECCA

I loved that bed. It felt like a
caravan. I wanted to grow up to be
a Gypsy. Or a pirate.

JOSH

I'd gaze up at you. The light was
this warm. White. Brilliant thing.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

I see that every time I'm writing
music and want to feel in love.

Rebecca stops. Looking adoringly at Josh.

JOSH (CONT'D)

It's actually really warm in here.

Breaking the tension.

REBECCA

It is. It's really warm!

Rebecca buries herself in the leaves. Cuddling up with Josh
under the pile.

Josh wraps his arm around her. Pulling her head to his chest.

They both sigh deeply. Josh looks like he'll cry. Rebecca
looks worried.

They both sigh deeply. Josh pulls Rebecca in tighter. She
buries her face.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The light is warm. White. Brilliant.

A YOUNG JOSH, 11, sits at the piano. His fingers begin
striking chords. Sentimental.

A YOUNG REBECCA, 11, wraps her arms around his neck.
Embracing him from behind.

Young Josh continues playing in her embrace. And he starts
softly singing a love song to her.

He releases the boy. And dances about the room. Little ballet
turns. Reaching. Bowing. Spinning.

She answers his verse with her own. And they sing together.

EXT. STICK FORTS - DUSK

Josh opens his eyes. Rebecca isn't there.

He rustles out from the fort. Seeing her sitting on a rock.
It's getting dark.

JOSH

Not cold?

REBECCA
No, this coat is really warm.

JOSH
Head back then?

REBECCA
Yeah. I need to get back.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

They walk in silence. A small distance apart. Hands in pockets. A million miles apart.

EXT. RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

REBECCA
Where's the dam?

JOSH
I think we're downstream.

REBECCA
How far?

JOSH
Kind of far. I think I the trailhead is right over there.

REBECCA
Shit. It have to get back.

Josh looks around. Putting together a plan.

JOSH
Hold on.

Josh starts moving thick branches and rocks. Throwing them in the near frozen river.

Rebecca's frustration quickly shifts. Seeing Josh labor with big rocks and branches. He looks ridiculous. The light comes back into Rebecca's eyes.

Some of the rocks and sticks are really big. Rebecca steps in to help. Her puffy trench coat restricts. But lifting and throwing none the less.

Silly joy.

Getting carried away, Rebecca almost trips into the water. Josh catches her.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Careful.

Adoration again.

EXT. RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

Satisfied with the rough path to skip across.

JOSH

Ready?

REBECCA

You first.

Josh makes his way. Some of the rocks wobble. Some of the sticks are thin. Some of the jumps are big. But he makes it across.

Rebecca looks at Josh. She's game. But has concern.

JOSH

You got it.

Rebecca starts in. Balancing and jumping. Precarious.

Josh comes back out part way to offer a hand.

With sudden determination, Rebecca jumps. Makes it. But her coat. And balance. Lost. Falling straight into the water.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Oh no!

Rebecca. Sad face. Then laughing.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Ok.

Josh jumps into the water too. Solidarity.

He helps Rebecca up.

They stand there. Soaking wet. Cold. Close.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(pointing)

The cars are right there.

Rebecca shakes her head "no".

JOSH (CONT'D)
Dry clothes. Heaters.

Josh pulls her in for a hug. Rebecca shivers. But still shakes her head "no".

JOSH (CONT'D)
We're going to freeze.

Rebecca looks at Josh again.

EXT. STICK FORTS - NIGHT

With a fire blazing. Their wet clothes hang on sticks-- drying.

Inside the stick fort, they cuddle a tarp. Drinking from the thermos. Josh slices apples with a pocket knife.

The music from the dream returns. They whisper the lyrics to one another.