Coming Home

Robert Tackett

Hospital room scene

Little girl, age 8. Laying in bed all hooked up to tubes. Breathing is labored.

“Please, Dad. I want to go home”. She pleaded, weakly, “I want to see my friends and play with Lucien”.

“Sure, Sweetie”. Father slowly replies. His voice cracking, “You’ll be home soon”. Tears start in his eyes.

The nurse motions for the dad to come outside.

Outside in the hallway

“I’m sorry, Sir. But rules are rules”. The Nurse says very sternly, “We cannot let her go home without the proper hospital equipment in your home to keep her comfortable”.

“Don’t you worry about us”. The dad admonishes the nurse, “We will get everything she needs. I just need that list”.

“Sir. I am sure you have the best of intentions for your daughter, but these items are expensive”. The nurse replies, “I think it best she just stays here in the hospital with us. Until…”

“No. No way”. The Dad pleads, “She needs to be home with family where she is loved. Home with us. Just get me that list”.

The nurse hands the dad a list of hospital items. He looks at it as the nurse walks away.

Camera turns to see the kids in the hospital room talking. Fade out

Back in the hospital room

“You’re birthday is in 2 days”. Exclaims the older brother, excitedly, “What do you want for your birthday”?

“I just want to go home and sleep without being sick anymore”. The little girl replies weakly, “I want to play with Lucien again”.

Out in the hallway. The father gets out his phone and makes a call.

“Hey, it’s Tack”. The father speaks to the phone, “I need some stuff from the office. Now. Tonight”. Fade Out

Outside their home, the next evening, before the sun sets. The family truck pulls up and everyone gets out. The little girl is in a wheelchair with oxygen and an I.V. Everyone helps bring in all the items from the truck. Cut scene

Inside the home in the family room

“Wow”! Exclaimed the mom to Dad, “You have been busy. How did you get all this stuff”?

“Don’t you worry about where I got it”. The dad replies, “I’m just glad we are able to bring our little girl home”.

Camera turns to see the older brother bringing a small dog and putting it in his sister’s lap, so she can hold him and hug him.

“Lucien”! She cries, “Oh, I missed you”!

Come on everyone”. Mom says with an unsteady, breaking voice, “We have something special planned for you”. Looking at her precious daughter. Her eyes open wide with a great big, slow, weak smile. The dad brings out a birthday cake and they all begin singing Happy Birthday!

Scene fades out. Scene fades in

“Can I sleep down here with Val”? The brother asks.

“Sure you can”. Replies Dad lovingly, “But you have to brush your teeth and get your pajamas on first”.

“I’ll help you brush your teeth also”. Mother says to her daughter, “It’s been a long day for everyone”.

“I think we’ll all sleep down here with your sister tonight”. Adds Dad.

“Stay up challenge”! Screams the son as he scampers off.

Mother can be seen getting toothpaste onto a toothbrush and some water in a cup. Camera catches her eyes beginning to water. Dad helps steady her hands.

The boy gets back and the mom is bringing some sheets and blankets for everyone. Everyone finds a spot on couches and chairs to sleep. The great bay window is open and as everyone gazes outside, they began to talk. Lighting is low.

“We forgot to say our prayers”! The boy quickly exclaims. He quickly jumps out of bed and kneels at the couch and bows his head. The mom and dad follow suit. The daughter makes a weak attempt to do the same.

“Stay in bed, Honey”. Mom states. She adds, “You can say your prayers from there tonight”.

The boy begins, “Dear Lord please help heal my sister. She is not such a big pain. I don’t mind her. Really”. His voice is sincere and trails off… Her breathing can be heard and she struggles to breathe.

“Dear Lord, thank you for letting me come home and being with my family again. I missed Lucien”. The little girl says in a weak voice, pausing between breathes. “I love my family so much. Please look over them for me”.

“Heavenly Father, watch over our family and give us the strength to carry on”. Mom’s voice breaks. She slowly begins to sob quietly.

Husband puts his hand over his wife’s shoulder. “Lord, we thank you for each moment you have given us”. The father is weeping while he speaks. “Please look over your blessed children and provide peace and comfort to those in need”. He finishes with, “In Jesus name we pray”.

And everyone, in unison, says “Amen”. They all lay down.

“Dad! Wake up”! It’s Val”! The boy is frantic. Everyone scrambles to the bedside. Val can be seen taking slow, irregular breathes. The family surround her. Holding her hands.

“I’m scared, Dad”! Val breathes, while looking to her father. His grip tightens on her hand. His eyes are crying. “I’m scared. I don’t want to go”.

“I’m sorry, Baby. I am so, so, sorry”. The Dad opening weeps for his daughter. The pain is palpable.

“No, Dear. Please, No”. Mom cries out loud. “I love you”!

“I love you to, Mom”. Val is having trouble breathing. “I love you, Dad! And you too, Big brother”.

“I love you, Baby”. Says Dad, quietly

“I love you too, Val”. Replies her brother solemnly.

Her eyes slowly close. Her breathing becomes more irregular and drawn out. Without warning, there is no more breathing.

Camera fades up and away and pans to outside moonlit night, looking up to the heavens.