

Some Things Never Die

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - SPARE BEDROOM - MORNING

Sunlight pours in through the open curtains. SUSIE, 26, lies asleep.

She suddenly stirs with a moan, rolls over. She rubs her eyes, yawns, then looks at the watch on her wrist. She squints at it, bleary-eyed.

When she realises the time, she jerks upright.

SUSIE
(at the time)
Holy...

She throws off the covers and scrambles off the bed in one movement. She runs to the door, screaming -

SUSIE (CONTD.)
Wake up! Everyone wake up! We've
got to -

She trips over something in the doorway and goes flying.

CORRIDOR

Susie clammers to her feet, runs towards a door further down the corridor. She throws it open, rushes into -

HELEN'S BEDROOM

- where HELEN, 26, is sound asleep. Susie rushes over to her, leans over the bed. She shakes Helen gently.

SUSIE
Helen, Helen honey...wake up...

Helen groans, rolls away from Susie.

SUSIE (CONTD.)
Helen...

Helen rolls back, squints up at Susie.

HELEN
Susie? What time is it?

SUSIE
(gently)
It's eight-thirty, honey...

Now Helen sits bolt upright, stares at Susie.

HELEN
Did you just say eight-thirty?

SUSIE
(checking her watch)
Well, now it's eight-thirty-two...

Helen stares straight ahead with wide eyes.

HELEN
Holy -

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Frantic scenes inside a stretch limo. Helen adjusts the top of her WEDDING DRESS, Susie helps her.

Susie is dressed in a simple green dress, along with three other BRIDESMAIDS who chatter to each other in the background.

HELEN
You said you'd wake me up, Susie!

SUSIE
I know, I know...

HELEN
I said I wanted to be nice and calm
before my wedding, nice and calm.
Do I look calm?!

SUSIE
No...

HELEN
No! Because I'm *not* calm! What kind
of maid of honor makes the bride
late for her own wedding?!

SUSIE
We're fine, honey, we're not going
to be late...

Helen reaches over and stabs the intercom button.

HELEN
(to driver)
Can we hurry up, please?! Some of
us are getting *married* today!

Susie suddenly shrieks, points out the window.

SUSIE
There! I see it over there!

EXT. PAVEMENT - DAY

The LIMO screeches to a halt. The door opens and Susie clambers out, careful not to ruin her dress. She straightens up, looks around.

She leans down back into the car.

SUSIE
Come on, come on!

She reaches into the car and helps Helen out. Helen pats down her dress, checks her gloves.

The rest of her party climb out behind her.

HELEN
Are we late? What time is it?

SUSIE
It's nine-forty, honey...we have plenty of time. The service isn't supposed to start for another twenty minutes. You're fine.

HELEN
I'm fine...I'm fine...okay.
(beat)
Oh my God, Susie, I'm getting *married*.

Susie claps her hands with excitement.

SUSIE
I know! I can't believe it...you're so grown-up.

HELEN
How do I look?

SUSIE
Gorgeous, of course. Paul's a lucky guy.

Susie holds Helen's shoulders, pep-talk-style.

SUSIE (CONTD.)
You ready?

Helen responds with a wide smile.

HELEN
Of course I am. Let's go.

They walk, hand in hand, through the double-doored entrance to a HOSPITAL.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

A TIE is straightened in a mirror.

A knock on the door.

MALE VOICE
Come in.

The door opens, and Helen steps in, smiling.

HELEN
Hey, honey.

The male voice belongs to PAUL, 28, who stands in front of the mirror.

The physical effects of intensive chemotherapy are visible on his body - he is bald, painfully thin, his face gaunt.

He turns, smiles as she enters the room.

PAUL
Hey.

She approaches, they embrace.

PAUL (CONTD.)
You're not supposed to come in here...isn't it bad luck for me to see you in your dress before the wedding?

HELEN
I think we've had our fair share of bad luck, don't you?

PAUL
(with a smile)
I reckon so.

She breaks the embrace, holds him at arm's length, studies his face.

HELEN

How are you today? Is the pain okay?

PAUL

I'm fine, baby. It's all under control.

HELEN

We don't have to do this, you know.

PAUL

Helen, we've had the date set for over a year. I've lost my health, my hair...you think I'm gonna let this illness take our wedding, too?

HELEN

But what about -

PAUL

Helen, we are getting married. Today. That is...if you still want to?

HELEN

Of course I still want to, idiot.

PAUL

Well, you'd better hurry up, seems like you've got competition - I swear one of the nurses made a pass at me the other day...

Helen punches him playfully on the arm.

HELEN

Shut up! Let's go.

Hand in hand, they walk out the door.

INT. HOSPITAL FOYER - MORNING

Helen and Paul walk hand in hand across the foyer, towards the entrance.

HELEN

I saw what they've set up in the garden as we drove up - it looks really nice.

Paul stops suddenly, turns to face Helen.

PAUL

Honey, hold on a second. Before we go out there...there's something I want to say.

(beat)

I know this isn't the wedding we planned, the one you'd always dreamed of, but life has a habit of dealing you unexpected cards, and I guess all you can do is deal with it. I'm just so happy that I get to marry you at all.

HELEN

Me too...

PAUL (CONTD.)

Wait, I haven't finished.

(beat)

This cancer's a bitch. We both know that. Three months ago I was absolutely fine, and now...look at me. I know things have been tough, and I love you so much for staying with me. And maybe I'll get through this, maybe I won't -

HELEN

(interrupting)

You're gonna get through this!

PAUL

- but even if I don't...that's okay. Really, it is. Cos' in the end...I love you, and you love me, and some things...some things never die. Never. Remember that.

He kisses her. There are tears in Helen's eyes.

PAUL (CONTD.)

I love you, Hellcat.

HELEN

I love you too, Paulie.

PAUL

You ready to get married?

(she nods)

Then let's do this.

They walk out through the double doors, into BLINDING WHITE LIGHT.

After a few seconds...

FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCHYARD - DAY

A funeral is in process.

The priest stands at the head of the open grave, reading from a Bible. Mourners line the grave on either side.

Helen stands hand-in-hand with Susie. She doesn't cry, but the pain is visible on her face.

Over the top of the action, the SONG plays.

LYRICS:

*Please don't just slip away
Keep living up 'til your last day.
Who says you gotta let the darkness
win?*

*Rage, rage against the dying light!
Life's worth defending - where's
your fight?
Don't you dare just let the
darkness in.*

The mourners walk past the grave one by one, reaching into an out-held box and throwing some soil down onto the coffin.

Helen takes some, lets it run down between her fingers. She stares down at the coffin.

*I love you, I love you.
And some things never die...*

Susie leads her away as the image FADES TO BLACK.

After a few seconds...

FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCHYARD - DAY

The same churchyard, quiet and peaceful.

The same grave, now with a simple tombstone at its head.

SUPER: Two months later

A HAND reaches down and puts a bunch of flowers on top of the grave. It retracts, and HELEN straightens up.

She wears a summer dress, tight enough to detect the roundness of her stomach.

HELEN

Hey, it's me. Sorry I haven't visited for a few days. I brought you flowers...daffodils, from the park.

She sits on the ground in front of the grave.

HELEN (CONTD.)

So...news...Susie's getting married, did I tell you that? Matt finally proposed to her, at that Italian restaurant she loves. He tried to hide the ring in her dessert but they put it in his by accident. He nearly swallowed it, apparently! She said yes, though, once they'd given him the Heimlich Maneuver. Oh, and I viewed a flat yesterday. It was really nice...perfect room for a nursery, for when this little one arrives...

She strokes her stomach, then looks back at the tombstone, sighs.

HELEN (CONTD.)

I miss you so much, Paulie. Every day I wake up, roll over to kiss you...and you're not there. It's like losing you again every morning.

She lapses into silence for a few seconds, then continues.

HELEN (CONTD.)

I was thinking about what you said just before the service, about how some things never die. I think

(MORE)

HELEN (CONTD.) (cont'd)
that's true. Because even though
you're not here any more, and even
though memories of you aren't the
real thing, at least I have those,
right? And when this one is born I
can tell him - I've decided it's a
boy, by the way - I can tell him
all about his daddy, all the funny
stories. and that means you'll
still be here. In a way. I bet he's
gonna grow up to be just like you,
all tall and handsome...

(beat)

I'm never gonna stop loving you. No
matter where I go, what I do,
you'll always be with me. And
there'll be a part of you in him,
too...so yeah, I think you were
right. Some things never die.

She climbs to her feet, brushes herself off, looks down at
the tombstone.

HELEN

I'll see you soon, okay? I love
you, Paulie. Don't you forget about
me up there.

She blows a kiss to the tombstone, then turns and walks
away.

FADE OUT