

DOUBLE KNOT

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY

JOE (30), dressed in a tux, ties his bow tie.

DONNA (30), Joe's pregnant wife, hands Joe a string of pearls and turns towards the full-length mirror. Donna pulls up her hair. Joe drapes the necklace around her neck.

Joe adores Donna's pregnant profile in the mirror. He takes her in his arms.

Their embrace is cut short by the CRASH of dishes!

Donna is a little peeved as she waddles from the room.

Joe grabs the pair of symphony tickets upon the dresser and tucks them into the breast pocket of his tux.

INT. HOUSE/DINING ROOM

Donna cradles her head in her hands.

Joe places a calming hand upon her shoulder.

SEAN (7), their son with Down syndrome, sits at the table with arms folded tight in protest. His spaghetti dinner is all over the wall and floor.

DOOR BELL.

INT. HOUSE/FOYER

PAM (30s), respite worker, assures Donna and Joe.

PAM
Enjoy the concert. Sean is in good hands.

INT. FAMILY CAR - DAY

Joe's eyes veer from the road in response to Donna's sudden CRIES of pain.

They run a stop sign, nearly avoiding a collision. Donna directs Joe to watch where he is driving.

They zoom down the road!

INT. HOUSE/FOYER - DAY

Pam answers the front door. She is dragging after a stressful couple of days with little sleep.

Donna and Joe enter. Donna cradles KATE (newborn), an apparently healthy baby girl.

Sean, lips pursed and brow furrowed, stands just beyond the foyer.

DONNA

Sean, this is your sister, Kate. You are now a big brother.

Sean glares at his baby sister. With jerky motions, he unties his shoes and scurries away.

Toy cars CRASH against the wall in another room!

Donna shakes her head in frustration.

INT. HOUSE/FAMILY ROOM

Sean hurls toys about the room. He glares at Donna as she steps into the room.

DONNA

You have a mighty light. Can you shine it for Kate?

Sean softens and allows Donna a hug and for her to tie his shoes.

DONNA (cont'd)

Change is hard, but I know you can do it.

Sean offers Donna a toy car and picks up one for himself. They roll the cars back and forth to each other.

DONNA (cont'd)

Being a big brother is a big deal. Your sister will look up to you and she will be your best friend.

Sean's eyes widen and a smile creeps across his face.

Kate CRIES! Donna scurries from the room!

Sean unties his shoes and tosses them.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kate (7) helps Joe (37) wash dishes.

Sean (14) strolls in and helps himself to a double Popsicle from the freezer. He places the Popsicle on a small plate. His shoes are untied.

Joe sets aside the dish he was drying and goes to help Sean tie his shoes. Sean jerks away.

Kate dries her hands with a towel and approaches Sean.

Sean looks away, yet does not retreat.

Kate sits at Sean's feet. She takes hold of a pair of shoelaces and holds them up for Sean to see.

Sean turns his attention to his sister and the shoelaces.

Kate demonstrates the bunny ear technique, finishing with a double knot.

Sean processes for a moment, then successfully ties his other shoe with a little help from his sister. Once again, they complete the job with a double knot.

Sean tugs at the knot and it won't budge. He tries a second and then a third time to loosen the stubborn knot and it won't budge.

Sean gazes deep into his sister's eyes and smiles. He breaks the double Popsicle down the middle and offers half to her.

INT. HOUSE/SEAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Birthday cards for 21-year-old Sean are neatly displayed.

Kate (14) helps Sean (21) pick out a tie that coordinates with his dress shirt. She helps him tie a Windsor knot.

Sean brushes his dress shoes.

Kate opens the closet door. A small wrapped package is barely visibly tucked under a stack of sweatshirts.

Kate goes to reach for the wrapped package with her right arm only to find that she is unable to raise it past her shoulder!

Kate does a shoulder roll and tries again, to no avail.

Kate sees that Sean has not noticed. He is completely engaged in shoe brushing.

Kate reaches up with her good left arm and retrieves the package.

Kate surprises Sean with the small wrapped package.

Sean tears it open to discover a silver Celtic knot tie clip. He hands it to Kate and she clips his tie.

INT. ELEGANT RESTAURANT - DAY

Joe (44) pours Donna (44) the last of the wine.

Kate and Sean are engaged in an intense kid's menu tic-tac-toe match.

MAURICE (30s), a pretentious waiter, auditions a tray of fancy desserts.

Sean unfolds the kids' menu and shows Maurice a picture of a milkshake.

The entire family nods and gives a "thumbs-up!" They chuckle politely as an appalled Maurice saunters off.

Maurice returns with a tray of four chocolate milkshakes and serves them, to everyone's delight save his.

Kate struggles using the straw. For the first time in her life, she discovers that she is unable to drink from a straw!

Kate's attempt to cover by sipping from the glass is betrayed by Sean's look of concern.

INT. HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Kate arranges candles on Sean's birthday cake.

Donna rips open a bag of balloons and hands a few to Kate.

Donna blows up a balloon.

Kate attempts to blow up a balloon and fails. She is shocked to find the third simple activity this evening that she is unable to accomplish!

Donna notices the look of concern on her daughter's face.

INT. HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Donna is on the phone. Her face is the picture of grave concern as she struggles to understand the bad news. Her eyes well up with tears.

Sean looks on from the living room. He angrily stomps off.

INT. HOUSE/SEAN'S BEDROOM

Sean rips opens the unused package of balloons from his birthday party and blows up a balloon.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Joe has a fatherly look of concern as he drives.

Kate scrolls on her cell phone and reads a blog post:

"FSH is a form of muscular dystrophy that most commonly causes weakness of the face, upper arms and shoulder regions, though symptoms can affect the legs as well."

A tear rolls down Kate's cheek.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lights are out and all is dark. Donna and Sean peer out through the front window blinds.

Car headlights illuminate the room.

Donna and Sean duck to hide.

FRONT DOOR CREAKS OPEN AND SHUTS.

Kate steps into the dark room and flicks the light switch. To her amazement, the entire room is packed full of colorful balloons!

Joe walks in right behind Kate.

Donna and Sean pop up from their hiding place!

The entire family plays in the makeshift balloon pit!

EXT. LEARNING PROGRAM - DAY

Joe (52) drives up in the family car and parks outside of the learning program Sean attends. Kate (22) sits in the passenger seat and plays on her phone.

Sean walks out the front door of the learning program. He is hand in hand with NICK (25), the handsome program's activity director. They walk up to the passenger side of the car.

Sean taps on the passenger window. This startles Kate! Her head pops up from the phone and she catches Nick's smile.

Kate lowers the window.

Nick extends a handshake.

NICK
Hi, my name is Nick. I'm the new
activity director.

Kate is rendered speechless.

SEAN
That's my daughter, Kate.

Kate rolls her eyes at Sean.

KATE
He means, sister.

NICK
It's nice to meet you, Kate.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kate cuddles with Nick in front of the television.

INT. ELEGANT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Maurice is appalled to serve Kate and Nick milkshakes.

Kate pulls out her straw and sets it upon the table.

Nick does likewise with his straw.

Kate and Nick appear very much in love as they playfully drink their milkshakes from the glass.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Nick and Kate pull pull up in Nick's car. Nick turns off the ignition and opens the driver side door. Kate waits patiently in the passenger seat. Nick comes around and opens the passenger door for her.

Kate's weak legs falter as she tries to stand. Nick catches her. Kate looks terrified. Nick comforts her.

NICK

We got this.

KATE

But - what if I can't walk?

NICK

Then, I will carry you.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

Nick and Sean approach the engagement ring counter. Nick's eyes are drawn to an engagement ring. Sean shakes his head.

SEAN

No. Different one.

NICK

But, it's beautiful.

Sean grunts. He unfolds an advertisement and shows Nick a ring circled in red ink.

SEAN

This one. She likes it.

NICK

Good looking out.

INT. CHURCH/FOYER - DAY

Closed entryway doors muffle wedding prelude MUSIC.

Joe (54) paces in pensive solitude past a bible verse upon the wall; "Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed."

Sean (31) comes out of the men's room. He struggles with his boutonniere.

Joe fixes Sean's boutonniere.

Sean descends stairs towards the basement.

Joe becomes aware of something in the breast pocket of his tux. He reaches into his pocket and produces a pair of unused twenty-four-year-old symphony tickets. He smiles.

INT. CHURCH/BASEMENT - DAY

Kate (24) is in a wheelchair. She is dolled up in her wedding dress.

Donna (54) finishes up final touches of Kate's makeup. Kate glows and Donna's eyes well up with joyful tears. The stunning bride turns to her mom and nods that she is ready.

Sean walks in as Donna walks out.

Sean offers Kate a small gift-wrapped package.

Kate opens it and finds a pair of silver Celtic knot earrings.

Sean helps Kate on with the earrings.

Kate pulls up her dress just above the ankles to reveal a pair of sneakers with laces untied. Sean and Kate share in a laugh. He ties her shoelaces in double knots.

INT. CHURCH/FOYER

Joe paces.

Elevator door opens and out rolls Kate pushed by Sean.

Joe gazes upon Kate in her wedding dress. They are both on the verge of happy tears.

Wedding march MUSIC. Entryway doors open.

Joe extends his arm to Kate.

Sean wheels Kate, who is arm in arm with her dad, as the three take their first steps down the aisle.

FADE OUT.