

NEXT YEAR

Written by

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INT. HOSPITAL, PATIENT'S ROOM - NIGHT

DAVID HALLOW (40s), loosens his tie as he stands by the bed where his mother, JUNE HALLOW (70s), lies. He places a single rose on the food cart.

JUNE

Could you give me a bit more water, dear?

DAVID

Sure, mum.

David fills a Styrofoam cup with ice chips and water, and replaces the straw with a fresh one.

JUNE

Walter, that's such a waste.

(beat)

What time does mass start?

DAVID

Eight o'clock. You've plenty of time. Just rest.

JUNE

So handsome. But you really do need a haircut.

DAVID

I've let myself go.

David walks to the window. It's dark, raining, and the only thing visible is the reflection of moving headlights in the raindrops on the glass. He stares.

DOCTOR REG ADLER (60s), with an "I Gave Blood On Valentine's Day" sticker on his lapel, interrupts David's mental holiday.

REG

Hello, David. May I have a word?

INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

David and the doctor move into the hallway.

REG

She gave us a bit of a scare last night. We were able to resuscitate, but that's three times now.

DAVID

At least she won't remember it.

REG

Have you made your decision?

Reg shows David a clipboard with a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) form neatly clasped. David looks into the room.

DAVID

I know she wouldn't want this.
Neither would Dad... I'll sign it.

REG

I think you're making the right
decision. For what it's worth.

INT. HOSPITAL, PATIENT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David kisses June on the forehead.

JUNE

I'm so tired, Walter. I wish David
would come home. He's been at
school all day.

DAVID

Just rest. I'm sure David's just
fine. He'll be home soon.

June smiles and closes her eyes.

JUNE

He's such a good boy.

David holds her hand as she falls asleep, then gently places
it by her side. He hears a tap on the door frame and turns to
see JENNIFER HALLOW (40s), his wife, dressed to the nines.

Jennifer takes David's hand, kissing his wedding band. Then,
framing his face in her hands, gives him a long, gentle kiss.

JENNIFER

We can do Chez Bruce next year.

DAVID

(grabbing the rose)
For you.

JENNIFER

No, for June. Reminding me of the
man you are is my gift.