

MY DARLING JOAN

by

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EXT. METRO TRAIN - DUSK

The sun hits LEN's face through the smudgy window. LEN, 72, sits across his childhood sweetheart MAGGIE. ROLAND, slightly older to the two, sits next to LEN. ROLAND uses his grey fedora hat to shade the sun from LEN's eyes. ROLAND holds a single stalk of rose. The three are youthful in their chatter. ROLAND looks out the window across the fields of gold.

(V.O.) ROLAND

My Darling Joan, It is beautiful today
- The daisies are in bloom. I don't
feel so weak. I managed to spend some
time with LEN and MAGGIE. They're al-
right, in case you were wondering. They
talk about you all the time.

INT. ROLAND'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The room is dark. ROLAND sits on the edge of his bed with a picture of him and Joan on the bedside table. He pops a handful of pills and washes it down with a glass of water. He slips on his bedroom slippers and walks to the bathroom.

(V.O.) ROLAND

I'm in stage 2 now. Doctor Warren says
I'm taking the treatment very well for
a person of my age. (laughs) I can't
say if that's a good thing really. But
you always taught me to look on the
bright side of life. (pause) I try..

He closes the door slightly allowing the sun to peep into the bedroom. ROLAND coughs hysterically and throws up.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

ROLAND's coffee mug is almost empty. He's half way through writing a letter to Joan. A young waitress walks over to his table.

WAITRESS

Another black Mr.P?

ROLAND

Not today love, I have plans.

WAITRESS

That's alright then. Oh, Happy Valen-
tine's day!

Roland smiles, puts the letter away in his pocket and collects his things. He looks back at the waitress from outside the coffee shop.

(V.O.) ROLAND

Lucy's a wonderful girl. She's grown up so much now! Remember when we used to hold her as a little baby? In ways she resembles you. I think it's her smile and how she knows how I take my coffee. Don't worry darling, you make the best cuppa to this day.

EXT. FLORIST STALL - AFTERNOON

ROLAND pays the florist. Young and middle aged men crowd round buying flowers for their loved ones. He walks away from the stall down a crowded street of couples of all ages.

EXT. METRO TRAIN - DUSK

MAGGIE

RON! This is you!

ROLAND, a little frazzled, gets up from his seat. MAGGIE kisses him on the cheek.

MAGGIE

Say hi to Joan for me.

LEN

Don't forget! It's our anniversary next week! We'll see you right?

ROLAND leaves the train. LEN and MAGGIE share a kiss and turn their heads to see ROLAND standing at the ramp. ROLAND tips his hat off to them. They wave to him as the train moves.

(V.O.) ROLAND

I'm going to miss MAG and LEN. But not half as much as I miss you. It's been 9 years Joan. How time has past so quick.

EXT. CEMETERY - DUSK

ROLAND stands over Joan's grave. He takes out a small glass tube filled with a concoction of fluids. He coughs hard splattering blood on his palms.

(V.O.) ROLAND

I've been suffering for far too long without you. (pause) I'm sure everyone will understand.

ROLAND

I'll be with you soon my darling.

ROLAND drinks the poison.

THE END.