

Frankie
an original screenplay by
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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

MARGARET, 80's, dressed in pajamas, a robe and slippers, sits in a wheelchair and stares out a window.

JANET, 40's, impeccably dressed, sits on the edge of the bed and holds a red envelope.

JANET

They're going to show a Jimmy Stewart movie tonight. That'll be nice.

JACK, 40's, in a suit and tie, sits in a chair, checks his watch.

JANET

You can watch the movie with your friends. Have some juice and a snack.

Margaret continues to stare out the window. Acknowledges nothing. Janet looks down at the envelope in her hand.

JANET

We got you a card. Should I read it to you?

Jack looks at Janet, taps his watch.

JANET

Maybe the nurse can read it to you later. We have dinner reservations.

MAGGIE, 10, enters the room holding a puppy. Jack shakes his head. Janet looks at her daughter disapprovingly.

JANET

I said to leave him in the car. This is no place for a dog.

MAGGIE

He was sad.

Jack stands and clears his throat. Janet stands and crosses to Margaret, kisses her softly on the forehead.

JANET

Sorry, we have to go. Happy Valentine's Day, Mom. I love you.

Janet turns and places the envelope on the bedside table.

Janet and Jack move to the door. Maggie stays behind.

JANET
C'mon, Maggie.

MAGGIE
I want to say bye to Grandma.

JANET
Maggie, she can't-- Okay.

Maggie walks over to Margaret and places the puppy in her lap. Margaret looks up.

MAGGIE
I named him Frankie. Like Grandpa.

Margaret looks down at the puppy.

The puppy stretches to reach Margaret's face. Licks her continuously.

JANET
Maggie, we have to go.

MAGGIE
(whispers)
We can come back after school
tomorrow. Me and Frankie.

Margaret and Maggie exchange smiles.

Maggie takes Frankie and kisses Margaret on the cheek.

MAGGIE
I love you, Grandma.

Margaret smiles and nods. Tears fall on Margaret's face as Maggie walks over to the door.

Janet collects Maggie and they all leave.

Margaret sniffs back her tears. Pulls a tissue from her sweater sleeve and dabs her eyes. In a moment, she returns her gaze to the window.

FADE OUT: