



CARMEN

Written by

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EXT/INT. CHURCH - DAY

Bells TOLL.

A procession of men walk in. Gloomy figures wait inside. CARMEN, 18, dressed in black, walks behind them.

The men carry an ornate coffin. GREG, 60, Carmen's father, leads them.

Shadowy figures glare at Carmen. They whisper.

Carmen sits in the first row. The coffin is settled down. Greg sits besides her. They avoid eye contact.

Carmen fixes her eyes on the podium.

The service begins.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Dim lights. Oxygen tanks and pill containers everywhere. A soft white bed.

Carmen kneels at the edge of the bed. Her mother ALBA, 50, rests. She takes her last breaths. They hold hands.

Carmen whispers to her. She presses her head against her mother's motionless chest.

Silence.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY - FLASHFORWARD

Guests shuffle at the visitation. Carmen observes Greg. He receives condolences. His eyes bloodshot.

There's automatism to everyone's movements. Murmurs hover all around like flies in a hot day.

Carmen approaches Greg. She frowns at a piece of paper in her hands. She drags him into a corner.

CARMEN

(reads)

Death is not an ending, but a new beginning. She will live in our hearts forever.

GREG

You will read it as it is because that's what people want to hear.

CARMEN

What about what mom would like to hear? Is it too much to ask you to let me do this my way?

GREG

Listen Carmen, everyone is just trying to breathe. You're not suffocating them with one of your existential rants.

Greg walks away. He greets more guests. Carmen looks at the speech in her hands. She tosses it away.

LATER

Unbearable quiet. Guests shuffle towards the open casket. They frantically pray at Alba's corpse. Carmen observes.

An OLD WOMAN whispers at her husband.

OLD WOMAN

They painted her like a clown.

Carmen hears. She walks towards the coffin.

Carmen THUDS the casket shut.

Everyone looks at her. She locks eyes with Greg. She walks out. Greg follows.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - CONTINUOUS

Greg holds the crumpled speech up.

CARMEN

They're like machines! Why should I waste a day grieving if all we're gonna do is suffer in silence.

GREG

You are selfish, Carmen.

CARMEN

You don't understand dad.

GREG

Everyone has suffered enough! Do you know what it's like to watch the love of your life vanish before your eyes?

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