

MEMORY OF WATER

Written by

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1 INT. POOL - UNDER WATER - DREAM 1

Blue water, calm, soothing...

INSERT LIGHT POOL SHOT: REMI (20s) and AIDEN (20s) come together to HUG under water. Totally in love.

REMI holds Aiden close, rapt...

A harsh BEEPING breaks through the tender moment...

2 INT. REMI'S BEDROOM - MORNING - REALITY 2

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

ON REMI, snuggled under the covers...

The ALARM shrieks, waking REMI to the real world. She reluctantly opens her eyes... reaches out... turns off the alarm.

She reaches under her pillow and pulls out a PHOTO of laughing REMI and Aiden at the POOL. It was a great day.

REMI looks at the photo, a sad smile as she remembers happier times.

But she has to get on with her day. She drags herself out of bed... wearing the SAME t-shirt as in the photo.

We follow her... past clothes STREWN over the back of a chair... laundry SPILLING out of a basket...

She pulls off her t-shirt with care... Contemplates putting it in the laundry basket but instead BURIES her face in it... folds it gently... lays it reverently on the bed.

3 INT. - REMI'S HOUSE - FOYER 3

REMI slips into her shoes, ready for work.

Her father ADAM (40s), no-nonsense and efficient, hands her her bag.

ADAM

Special day tomorrow, sweetheart.

REMI looks away.

INSERT DARK POOL SHOT: REMI looking left and right underwater.

ADAM (CONT'D)
We ought to celebrate.

REMI
Dad, I'm sorry--I don't need
anything special, I just need
you...
(tries again)
I just need to--

Beat.

REMI (CONT'D)
I don't need a celebration. I... I
want to get a dog.

ADAM
I'm not having a slobbering animal
in my house. You don't need a dog.

REMI opens her mouth to speak--

Adam holds up his hand, cutting her off.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Trust me, I know what you need.

4

EXT. PARK - DAY

4

People hurry on their way, others lounge around on benches.

REMI drags her feet.

FRIENDLY LADY/MAN (O.S.)
I was so happy and so sad at the
same time...

The sentiment catches REMI's ear. It's like this person knows her.

She looks around and sees...

A LADY FRIENDLY Lady/MAN (50s) sitting on a bench, talking to... her DOG! But what really catches REMI is that the Dog looks at Lady like he's listening.

REMI approaches them.

REMI
He understands every word you say.

Dog raises his head as REMI pets him.

FRIENDLY LADY/MAN

Of course he does. Well, maybe he doesn't understand my words, but he sure understands *me*.

(strokes Dog's head)

Don't you, Max?

Max licks Lady/Man's hand. Yup, it's clear he totally gets her.

REMI

I bet he never judges you.

FRIENDLY LADY/MAN

I can share anything with him. Jokes, stories, even lunch. He will always listen.

REMI's expression says that's what she needs, too.

5 INT. OFFICE - DAY

5

REMI at her desk, staring at her computer but not seeing it.

INSERT DARK POOL SHOT: REMI in the pool with Aiden.

MRS. LANGDON (PRE-LAP)

Hello?

INSERT DARK POOL SHOT: Aiden suddenly disappears.

MRS. LANGDON (PRE-LAP) (CONT'D)

Are you there?

Startled, REMI comes to.

REMI'S POV: A face RIGHT UP in hers.

Yikes! REMI jumps back.

MRS. LANGDON (30s), impatient and cross, is leaning over the counter, her face in REMI's.

REMI

I-- I'm sorry-- Um, how can I help... ?

MRS. LANGDON

I've been waiting for forty-five minutes. Is the doctor going to see me or what?

REMI watches DR. MICHAELS (40s) usher the next CLIENT (50s) into their office, and it's not Mrs. Langdon.

Panicked, REMI turns to her computer.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN: The website for the SPCA with a picture of a happy dog-and-owner couple.

So this is what had REMI so absorbed!

REMI clicks out of the SPCA website window and into her...

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN: Patient schedule.

It's not good news. REMI swallows as her throat goes dry.

REMI

I'm sorry, Mrs. Langdon. It seems I double-booked your appointment slot.

Mrs. Langdon reacts.

REMI (CONT'D)

I can move some appointments around for later this afternoon to fit you in.

MRS. LANGDON

This afternoon? I'm here now. I made this appointment a week ago.

REMI

I'm sorry. I've just been a little--

MRS. LANGDON

A little what? Your excuse better be a good one.

REMI

Well... it's my birthday tomorrow. But I just lost someone very close to me. It doesn't feel right to celebrate.

Mrs. Langdon is silent, but the expression on her face screams how weirded out she is.

MRS. LANGDON

(under her breath)

TMI.

DR. MICHAELS (O.S.)
I'm sorry for your inconvenience,
Mrs. Langdon.

REMI swivels around in her chair. Dr. Michaels--a
psychologist short on intuition--is standing behind her.

DR. MICHAELS (CONT'D)
(to Mrs. Langdon)
Your next session will be free of
charge.

MRS. LANGDON
You're right about that. Not only
have you wasted my time but--
(glares at REMI)
Well, *I'm* not the therapist here.

She HUFFS out.

Dr. Michaels reaches past REMI to the computer... clicks back
to the SPCA website window.

He's not happy at what he sees.

6 INT. REMI'S BEDROOM - DAY 6

Adam collects REMI's laundry in a basket. Rummages through
her room. Picks up Aiden's t-shirt, smells it... wrinkles his
nose. Definitely time for a wash.

Throws it in the laundry basket.

7 INT. OFFICE - DAY 7

Dr. Michaels stands arms crossed, towering over a downcast
REMI.

DR. MICHAELS
I understand you're having a hard
time, but sharing it with clients?
This is a psychiatry clinic, we
help people with their troubles
here, not add to them.

REMI opens her mouth to reply--

DR. MICHAELS (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, REMI. I've already
warned you twice in the past couple
of weeks. I'll have to let you go.

REMI slumps in her chair.

8

INT. - REMI'S BEDROOM - DAY

8

REMI sits slumped on the edge of her bed, hopelessness settling in. Looks for Aiden's t-shirt. It's gone!

Panicked, she rummages through her room... as she calls out:

REMI

Dad!

ADAM (O.S.)

Yeah!

REMI

Have you seen Aiden's t-shirt?

A heavy silence.

As she keeps searching the polaroid photo gets revealed on the bed.

REMI (CONT'D)

Dad!

Adam walks in to the room, the TORN t-shirt in his hands.

REMI utters a cry of DESPAIR... grabs the shirt.

ADAM

I'm sorry, you've worn it so much... It came apart in the wash.

(beat)

I'll get you another shirt.

REMI

I don't want another shirt. You know that was Aiden's!

ADAM

I can't have you going around this house crying all the time. You need to get a grip and move on with your life, REMI.

Adam looks down on the bed and realizes the polaroid photo. He grabs the polaroid photo, shakes it at her.

ADAM (CONT'D)

This has to stop. Now. It's for your own good.

He takes the photo, and leaves.

Distraught, clutching the t-shirt, REMI falls back on her bed...

INSERT DARK POOL SHOT: REMI falling backward in the pool!

We hear an insistent KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK...

9 INT. REMI'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING 9

REMI sleeping fitfully, clutching the torn t-shirt...

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

She starts awake.

ADAM (O.S.)

You're late for work again, REMI.
If you don't get it together,
you're going to lose your job.

Off REMI...

10 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - FOYER - MORNING 10

REMI, dressed for work, slips on her shoes.

Adam hands her her bag.

REMI looks at her father...

He beams back at her... excited, happy... a man with a secret...

REMI starts to say something, thinks better of it... leaves.

11 I/E. SPCA - MORNING 11

REMI longingly looks into the window dogs in their cages.

12 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - FOYER - MORNING 12

REMI cradles a PUPPY in her arms.

Adam is furious.

ADAM

You shouldn't have taken the morning off work for this ridiculous thing.

(points at the dog)

You need to learn that time stops for no one and how to move on with your life.

(beat)

Take that dog back.

REMI collects herself and raises her chin, a defiant light starting to burn in her eyes.

REMI

Yes maybe time hasn't stopped but I AM standing still.

(beat)

Dad, I love you. But you have no idea what I need. I need someone who doesn't judge my grief. Someone who listens to me and someone to share Aiden's memory with because I can't move forward if I leave him behind. I'm done being silent because it feels like he dies again every time I stop myself talking about him. As long as I remember him, he'll still be alive - at least in me.

(beat)

That's what I need.

Off ADAM spelling it slowly but surely.

ADAM

Take. That. Dog. Back.

REMI leaves, taking the puppy with her.

13 EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON 13

The crowd is thick with people hurrying to work.

REMI aimlessly weaves through the crowd.

14 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON 14

Adam decorates the house... balloons, cake... REMI's going to love this surprise! It's sure to bring her out of her funk.

15 EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON 15

REMI wandering down the street... someone up ahead catches her eye... could it be...?

She starts elbowing her way forward... glimpses him again... starts running after him... AIDEN!

INSERT DARK POOL SHOT: REMI and Aiden in the pool... they reach out for each other... hug...

CUT TO:

16 EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON 16

REMI hugging HERSELF in the street comes back to reality...
Off REMI.

17 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING 17

A festive atmosphere, with decorations and a CROWD of partygoers waiting to surprise the birthday girl.

18 EXT. STREET - EVENING 18

REMI wanders the streets, head hung low...

INTERCUT WITH:

INSERT DARK POOL SHOT: REMI drowning.

19 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING 19

Guests shoot questioning looks at each other, Adam checks his watch. REMI is late...

ADAM

(to the crowd)

She probably got held up at work

Pulls out his cell phone and dials...

20 EXT. REMI'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT 20

A crying REMI steps up to the
FRONT DOOR

Steps inside...

21 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 21

It's dark.

She flicks on the lights...

The room is EMPTY.

We follow her gaze around the room... the sad remains of party hats... half-full champagne glasses...

But there, on the table... one lovingly wrapped PACKAGE with a shiny bow...

REMI walks up to the gift, undoes the ribbon...

Slowly, she peels off the wrapping... lifts off the lid... and inside...

The photo of her and Aiden, FRAMED - a loving tribute.

A SOB escapes her. She thought she'd never get it back.

ADAM (O.S.)
I can be a good listener.

She looks up as Adam walks in. Adam gently cups her face in his hands.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Keep telling me what you need.

As they hug we zoom in on REMI's face.

CUT TO:

INSERT POOL SHOT: Adam jumps in and saves the drowning REMI.

As we zoom back out of REMI's face:

REMI
What changed...?

We time travel back to the party earlier that day...

22 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING - PARTY FLASHBACK

Guests shoot questioning looks at each other..

Adam checks his watch. REMI is late...

ADAM
 (to the crowd)
 She probably got held up at work.

Pulls out his cell phone and dials...

ADAM (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 Can I speak with REMI? This is her
 father.

His eyes widen at what he hears on the other end...

Adam hangs up the phone. In his mind's eye, we see...

23 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - FOYER - MORNING - FLASHBACK

23

REMI cradles a puppy in her arms.

Adam is furious.

ADAM
 You shouldn't have taken the
 morning off work for this
 ridiculous thing (points at the
 dog). You need to learn that time
 stops for no one and how to move on
 with your life.
 (beat)
 Take that dog back.

*REMI raises her chin, a defiant light starting to burn in her
 eyes.*

REMI
 Dad, I love you. But you have no
 idea what I need. I need someone
 who doesn't judge my grief. Someone
 who listens to me and someone to
 share Aiden's memory with.

OFF Adam...

DISSOLVE TO:

24 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING - PARTY FLASHBACK

*ON ADAM, as he remembers the grief-stricken look on Remi's
 face. How could he not hear his little girl?*

ADAM
(to guests)
*I'm sorry everybody, but this is
not what REMI needs.*

DISSOLVE TO:

25 INT. REMI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

25

BACK TO PRESENT

REMI looks at her father through new eyes.

REMI
I just need you.

ADAM
You have me.

Behind Adam, the PUPPY - the same dog that REMI brought home that morning - scampers into the room.

Delighted, she cuddles it...

REMI finally has what she needs.

They place the framed photo by the fireplace and hold hands as they look at it.

INSERT LIGHT POOL SHOT: REMI and Adam float in the pool, holding hands.

FADE OUT.