

My Guardian Angel

Written by

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Based on a true story

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1 EXT. KIRINA'S HOUSE - DAY 1

Outside a non-descript, single family home, an energetic and talkative 10 year old with brown eyes and long dirty blond hair puts an oversized BACKPACK into her mom's red car. MARY, a petite woman with long blond hair and blue eyes is smiling at her daughter while putting another BOX in the trunk. The young girl, KIRINA, SLAMS the back door shut and exclaims through the open window,

KIRINA

Mom, Mom, Mom, come on! I can't wait to see my new school and meet my new friends. I bet I'll make lots of friends. Oh, I wonder who my new teacher will be? Come on Mom, you're taking Forever...

(Beat)

...FOREVER!

2 EXT/INT. CAR - DAY 2

Mary closes the trunk and, with a smile, Mary climbs into the driver's side, closing the door behind her and buckling her seat belt.

MARY

Alright Munchkin, Are we ready?

(Looking into the rearview mirror)

You're not excited are you?!

KIRINA

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'VE BEEN WAITING ALLLLLLLL DAY FOR THIS! My new school is waiting my arrival!

Giggling as she turns around, Mary puts the car into drive and starts to pull out of the parking lot.

3 INT. SCHOOL - DAY 3

Kirina bursts in the door as if this place was lost until she arrived. As she scans the room, we see tables and art supplies, pictures, posters and books throughout. Kirina sees, Mr. Steven, a tall dark haired lanky man, smiling at her. She runs over to the man with her mom in tow.

KIRINA

Hi, I'm Kirina and I'm your new student and I like reading and science and art and theater and I'm so excited to be here and...

(Beat)

... What's your name?

As the man blankly smiles at her, Mary walks up.

MARY

I'm sorry about my daughter's excitedness.

MR. STEVEN (MAN)

Oh that's OK, I really like excited learners.

(Looking down)

Hi Kirina, I'm Mr. Steven, your guide on this educational journey. I am happy you were accepted into our Gifted Learners program.

KIRINA

Hi Mr Steven, I'm so excited!

(Pointing back with her thumb)

This is Mom.

MARY

Hi, again sorry. I'm Mary Anderson, we're excited to meet you, as if you couldn't tell.

MR. STEVEN

A pleasure, and you don't have to be sorry...

(Beat)

...Kirina, why don't you check out our amazing playground while I have your mom finish some paperwork, it's behind me and to the right.

KIRINA

(Bursting)

A playground, WOW!

(Beat)

Mom, can I?

MARY

Sure honey, go have fun.

Kirina smiles at Mr Steven and zooms around the corner and out of the room.

4 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

4

Kirina bursts out of the door and looks around seeing a decked out playground complete with swings, slides and a glorious wooden stage. As Kirina continues surveying her new domain, she sees some kids playing tag, except for one girl sitting by herself at a play table with various board games. Kirina doesn't think too much about it, but does notice that this girl is wearing awesome pink cowboy boots and the same lamb jacket that she owns. But what is really interesting and unique is that this girl is bald like in a science fiction film she had seen!

Kirina quickly struts over to the play table and stands right in front of the girl, AURORA.

KIRINA

Oh my goodness, I have the same jacket...

(Beat)

...that's so cool!  
And I simply love your boots, so chic  
and I'm Kirina, theater kid. Can I  
sit with you?

GIRL

(looking for a brief  
second)

Why thank you. I simply love your  
bracelets and necklace and anyone so  
fashionable can always sit with me.  
My name is Aurora and just to let you  
know, I'm also a theater kid!

KIRINA

Awesome! Why is someone so cool,  
sitting alone instead of playing with  
the other kids?

AURORA

I'm just not a sports kinda girl. I'm  
more into dancing!

KIRINA

I love dancing too! I love  
contemporary, tap and hip hop! I also  
do Tae Kwon Do, but dancing is life!

AURORA

I totally agree. I love ballet, jazz  
and I also love tap! My grandma  
taught me how! That's cool you do Tae  
Kwon Do.

KIRINA

Thanks!

(looking around)

Ooh a stage! We should totally do a dance party and we can invite all the other kids to do it with us!

AURORA

I don't know if they would want to do it with us.

KIRINA

(confused)

Why? I'm sure you're friends with everyone. You're so cool and I'm the ultimate people person. They gotta love us!

AURORA

(Reserved)

Well, we can try, but don't get your hopes up.

KIRINA

I'm sure everyone will want to be our friends and a part of our dance party!

The girls continue to talk and plan their party as the afternoon moves on.

FADE TO BLACK

5 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

5

Kirina and Aurora excitedly bounce out into the playground with enthusiasm for the dance party that they planned the day before. Carrying a TRUNK between them, they walk over to the stage and place the trunk right next to it. Aurora leans over and flips the trunk lid open revealing several pieces of costumes: SASHES, TUTUS, RIBBONS, BOAS, VESTS, and TIARAS. Both girls look at each other with huge grins.

Both girls dive into the trunk pulling out several pieces, putting them on in several layers until they are both satisfied with their fashionable looks. Aurora looks at Kirina and nods her head. Kirina then climbs up on the stage, turns to the kids in a gallant fashion and proclaims,

KIRINA

We are having a dance party. Everyone is invited. Let's put on a show!

Aurora climbs up to meet Kirina in the center of the stage and both begin to SING out loud, making up melodies as they dance around the stage lost in their joy.

PAIGE, another small framed student, who has dark brown eyes and hair with bangs is seen lightly dancing up to the front of the stage with a smile on her face. As she approaches, she waves to the girls and they smile, waving back. Kirina motions with her hand for Paige to come join them when suddenly another girl, from seemingly nowhere, marches up, grabs Paige's arm, swings her around and pulls her aside. We see the slightly bigger and taller girl who has wavy brown hair, olive skin and dark eyes angrily whispering to Paige.

Both Kirina and Aurora stop dancing to see what is happening with the girls. The olive skinned girl points at the stage and mimes her disapproval then turns quickly on her heels and stomps off, but after a few steps, she turns back and fiercely stares at Paige until Paige slowly follows her over to the swings.

Aurora looks at Kirina with a saddened expression, but seeing that Kirina isn't fazed, she shrugs, smiles and starts singing and dancing again as does Kirina, both getting lost in their own Broadway world.

6 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

6

The next day, Kirina enthusiastically runs into class looking all over for Aurora but doesn't see her. As she looks around, she spies Paige and MARA, the olive skinned girl, over at a table. Kirina walks over to the girls.

KIRINA

Hi, I'm Kirina, what's your names?

PAIGE

Hi, I'm Paige H. Nice to me...

MARA

(interrupting with  
contempt)

I'm Mara, you may know my uncle, he's  
the principal of this school.

KIRINA

(taken aback a  
little)

Oh, okayyyy...

(Beat)

...Good for you. Nice to meet you  
both.

(Beat)

(MORE)

KIRINA (cont'd)

This place is cool, I'm having fun here so far.

PAIGE

We've been here since kindergarten,  
(Beat)

You guys sure looked like you were having fun yesterday!

MARA

Hummm, actually... looked dumb to me!

There is an awkward silence as Kirina stares at Mara for a short moment; Paige kind of looks slightly away, embarrassed.

KIRINA

So, have you seen Aurora? We were having another dance party today and maybe even start a play.

MARA

Aurora is it? Hum, weird name. She misses school a lot.

(Beat)

Don't know why, but I'm sure she's faking something to get out of school.

KIRINA

(surprised)

Ok, thank you for your help. Nice talking to you...

MARA

(interrupting)

Look, if you want to be our friend, then you have to stop associating with... her.

Mara then promptly walks away as Kirina stands there slightly shocked. Paige stands there for a minute, meekly smiles.

PAIGE

I heard that Aurora is sick a lot and has to see doctors.

(Beat)

I really wanted to come dance with you guys yesterday.

MARA (O.S.)

Paige!!!

PAIGE

Have to go, bye.

Paige runs after Mara leaving Kirina pondering what just happened.

7 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

7

The next day, kids are playing throughout as Kirina and Aurora, wearing their matching lamb's jackets, are drawing and talking in the background.

MR. STEVEN (O.S.)

OK kids, recess is over, go line up by the door, I'll be there in a few minutes.

(Beat)

That means you too Mr. Seth!

Everyone begins to gather toward the back door getting in line with a low chatter, waiting to be let into class. Aurora is trying to zip up her jacket with no success. As she continues to try over and over, her hands seem to not be working properly; she is shivering and getting frustrated. Kirina, standing beside Aurora in the line, notices that she is having a hard time with the zipper.

KIRINA

Here, let me help.

Aurora looks up at Kirina and places the lower jacket into Kirina's hands. Kirina begins to work on the zipper to no avail. But she keeps trying knowing that Aurora is distraught. Kirina looks around, then down the line of kids.

KIRINA (cont'd)

Here, come with me.

She grabs Aurora's arm and drags her to the next kid, SETH, a dark skinned boy.

KIRINA (cont'd)

Seth, can you help us with this zipper? Aurora's cold.

SETH

(looking with big eyes)

No way, I'm not touching her. She's got cooties! Look at her!

Kirina gives Seth a big "how rude" expression for a second, turns her nose up at him and continues to drag Aurora to the next kid in line.

KIRINA

Mara, can you help us? Aurora's zipper is stuck and we can't get it to work.

MARA

(rudely)

As if!

Kirina, getting mad now, rolls her eyes at Mara as she moves on to Paige with Aurora in tow, heartbroken.

KIRINA

Paige, Please...

Paige cautiously reaches out to the zipper barely touching it until Mara slaps her hand with a "How dare you" expression. Paige stops, stares down, then turns back in line without a word. Kirina looks at everyone angrily.

KIRINA (cont'd)

Seriously, what's wrong with all of you?

Aurora, defeated and shivering, as Kirina pulls her along.

KIRINA (cont'd)

(Determined)

Come on.

(Helping Aurora)

Mr. Steven, Aurora is cold and her zipper is stuck and no one else will help us.

Kirina looks back at the line as Mara is giggling under her breath. Mr. Steven gives the girls a pitying glance, then bends down, reaches out and grabs the zipper, dislodges it and zips it up.

MR. STEVEN

Here you go, Aurora is that better?

(Beat)

Alright you two, back in line.

Kirina grabbing and holding Aurora's hand, walks back to the back of the line as she dead-stares the other kids.

8 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

8

The next day, Kirina and Aurora are walking around the edge of the stage balancing as they are practicing their princess walks with balance and grace. Mara walks over to the girls with a fake smile plastered across her face.

MARA

(sappy)

I need the stage, so can you two get off?

AURORA

Sure. We'll be done soon.

Mara, not satisfied with Aurora's answer, quickly walks over and shoves her down off the edge of the stage. Aurora falls to the hard ground, outside the stage and lands with a gasping WINCE onto her side, head landing into her arms as she slowly curls her legs inward. Mara walks around to Aurora's head with a smug look, crosses her arms as she stands over her. Kirina, seeing what happened, jumps off the stage edge, runs over to them near Aurora's feet and stops.

KIRINA

(shocked)

Why did you do that!? We were going to let you have it.

Kirina quickly bends down and reaches out toward Aurora. She looks up at Kirina, reaches out for the help and Kirina carefully helps her up to her feet and puts her arm around Aurora's shoulder as she walks her away from Mara.

KIRINA (cont'd)

(concerned)

Are you OK?

AURORA

(shaken)

Yeah I'll be OK.

They walk over to the table, arm in arm, as Kirina carefully helps Aurora sit.

KIRINA

What is wrong with her, with everyone here? I thought this place was going to be fun and everyone would be friends.

AURORA

It's not you. They're scared of me because I'm sick and I look different. They think I'm going to touch them and they will be sick too.

KIRINA

There is nothing wrong with you! Being different is your superpower and you are amazing and it makes you my best friend!

AURORA

You are my best friend too!

Kirina, surprised, looks at Aurora for a second not knowing what to say, then promptly gets up, deliberately walks over to Paige, Mara and the kids and stands with her fists on her hips.

KIRINA

(angrily)

Aurora is my best friend and there is nothing wrong with her. She is kind, smart, creative and amazing. If you want to hurt her, you will have to go through me. And if any of you ever hurt her again, I'll, I'll...

(beat)

Well you better not find out what I'll do!

(pointing at Mara)

And I mean YOU!

As the playground is silent, Kirina walks back over to a drop mouthed Aurora, sits beside her and gives her a huge hug! Aurora holds the moment then hugs her back.

9 INT. KIRINA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

9

Kirina and Mary are in the kitchen. Kirina is snacking on some FRUIT and Mary is wiping up the counter. The CELL PHONE RINGS in the background. Mary goes over to answer as Kirina continues to eat her snack. We can hear inaudible chatter in the background which catches Kirina's attention. Kirina turns toward mom as she hangs up the CELL PHONE and walks back into the kitchen with a smile.

MARY

Well, that was unexpected.

KIRINA

What is mom?

MARY

Aurora's mother just invited you over for a play date.

KIRINA

(extreme happiness)

Really! WOW, when? Now? Can we go now? What should we do? I need to plan! OMG I'm so excited!

MARY

Well it is wonderful because Aurora has never had anyone over before.

(Beat)

You must have made an impression.

KIRINA

AND???

MARY

We're going tomorrow afternoon.

KIRINA

Well that's not much time to plan! I've got so much to do!

Kirina, dropping her piece of FRUIT, jumps from the stool and runs out of the room SQUEALING with joy.

10 INT./EXT. AURORA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY - TRAVELING 10

Mary and Kirina knock on the door to a nicely manicured home. A petite blonde haired woman answers the door with Aurora standing in the background. The woman, JEANNE, begins to speak, but Kirina politely cuts her off.

KIRINA

Hi Ms. Jeanne, I'm Kirina! Thank you so much for inviting me to your house.

(Beat)

I'm so excited.

JEANNE

(pleased)

Well it is pleasure to finally meet you! I have heard a lot about you!

AURORA

(impatient)

Kirina, you're here! You gotta meet my baby sister before her nap! Come on!

Aurora squeezes through and grabs Kirina's hand, pulling her through the door, disappearing into the house.

MARY

Hi Jeanne, Kirina has been eager for this play date! Thank you for hosting.

JEANNE

Aurora also really excited. Bouncing off the walls really!

(Beat)

Would you like to come in?

MARY

Thank you.

Mary walks through the front door and into the living room, both sitting down on the couch. The ladies begin getting to know each other.

JEANNE

We are so excited to have Kirina over. She is the first classmate that has ever wanted to come over to play with Aurora.

MARY

Well Kirina couldn't wait. She loves Aurora so much and talks about her all the time.

JEANNE

Aurora does too. She says that Kirina is her best friend. Seems that she and Kirina are inseparable and are brightening each others lives.

(Beat with change)

She really makes Aurora happy which is exactly what she needs.

As the conversation continues, we see Kirina and Aurora playing and laughing together in the playroom.

MARY

Is it OK if I ask what is going on with Aurora? Kirina says that she misses school a lot.

JEANNE

Aurora has inoperable Neuroblastoma. We found it when she was four. She has been receiving treatments since.

MARY

Oh, I am so sorry. How are you holding up?

JEANNE

We take it day by day. It has been rough going to the hospital weekly, never knowing when she will have a good day or a bad one. That's why she misses school. But since she has been friends with Kirina, she has wanted to go to school even on her bad days.

MARY

Is there anything we can do to help?

JEANNE

Not really, but I appreciate it. We have everything we need. Thank you though.

MARY

Any time. OK, when should I come back for Kirina?

The ladies finish out the details as the afternoon goes on.

FADE OUT

11 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY - MONTAGE 11

- Day 01: CALENDAR DATE: Kirina comes out looking around for Aurora; she is absent.

- Day 02: CALENDAR DATE: Kirina comes out, kids playing, but Aurora is absent.

- Day 03: CALENDAR DATE: Kirina looks around the playground, worried because Aurora again is not there. Kirina is in the center all alone.

CALENDAR DATE: Winter Break

END MONTAGE

12 INT. KIRINA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY 12

Mary is on the CELL PHONE, inaudibly talking. She slowly hangs up the PHONE, thinks for a moment, then looks toward the hallway.

MARY

Kirina? Can you come out here for a moment?

KIRINA (O.S.)

K mom, coming.

Kirina comes skipping out of her room, climbs onto the stool in front of the counter with a smile on her face until she looks into her mom's eyes. Suddenly her face changes to concern.

KIRINA (cont'd)

(worried)

What's wrong mom?

MARY

Honey, I have some news about Aurora.

KIRINA

Is she OK?

(worried)

Is this why she hasn't been at school?

MARY

(carefully)

Aurora's in the hospital baby. She's not doing well. The doctors are monitoring her.

KIRINA

Well, can I go see her? Can we go to the hospital?

(Beat)

She needs me. I can make her feel better. I know it.

MARY

Honey, I'm sorry, we can't. They don't want visitors.

KIRINA

But I can help! I know I can!

MARY

Aurora asked that you don't come see her the way she is. She wants you to remember her the way she was the last time you both were together.

KIRINA

What does that mean? Is she...

(Beat with tears)

...Is she going to die?

But she already knows the answer by the way Mary is looking at her. Kirina's eyes continue to tear up as her mom grabs her up and holds her tight. Kirina tucks into her mom's shoulder crying, not holding anything back.

FADE TO BLACK

13 INT. MEMORIAL SPACE - DAY

13

Family and friends are gathered for the memorial. A REVEREND is saying some words of comfort as people are looking on.

Kirina, holding her mom's hand, looks up at her, nods and releases her hand. She slowly walks up to Jeanne, looks up at her and Jeanne kneels down taking Kirina into her arms, both hugging each other deeply.

JEANNE

(whispering)

You cheered her up every day.

When they finally release, Kirina looks at Jeanne.

KIRINA

Ms. Jeanne, may I say something for Aurora?

Jeanne, speechless, musters a smile and nods to her. Kirina walks up to the podium. The REVEREND walks over, places a small STOOL in front and offers Kirina a hand to step up. Doing so, Kirina looks out at the guests.

KIRINA (cont'd)

Hi, I'm Kirina and in the five months that I knew her, Aurora was my best friend. I know you are all here today because you knew and loved her as much as I do. But to me...

(Beat)

...she was like family, my sister. I met her on my first day of school; immediately I knew she and I were going to be best friends. In our matching lamb jackets, we were on top of the world, always together.

(Beat)

(MORE)

KIRINA (cont'd)

On most days, if we weren't putting on a play, or a dance party, we were rolling around in our jackets getting mulch everywhere. Even when it seemed like the world was against us, we always were there for each other! I think she knew that she would be leaving soon, but in our time together, she made an impact on me! Even at the end, she still fought to make sure that we knew she was OK. At the hospital, where she took her last breath, she was still thinking of her baby sister, her family, and all of us.

(Thinking)

She didn't want me to see her in the hospital because she wanted me to remember her at our last play date together.

(Beat)

I was sad because I wanted to make her feel better.

(Beat)

Aurora will never be remembered as depressed, or angry, or sad. She will be remembered as happy and kind and an amazing person who stole all of our hearts! I am proud to say I was her friend!

(Beat)

Aurora, I will keep an eye on your little sister, I will honor our dreams of being on stage and I will keep your memory alive! Aurora, you are my guardian angel and always will be. I love you and miss you. We will play again in my dreams.

FADE OUT

TITLE CARDS

14 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY (POST CREDIT SCENE)

14

The kids are all up on the stage with Mr. Steven and they are hanging a plaque on the back wall. Kirina and Mr. Steven step back admiring the plaque. It says "Aurora's Memorial Stage". Kirina gives Mr. Steven a big hug as the other students gather around, clapping.

Graphic: In honor of my friend, Aurora Johnson

date of birth & death

CREDITS

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