

The Bowling Alley

By

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FADE IN

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

It's 1987. People are with their families bowling.

NARRATOR (V.O)

In 1987, I was nine. I lived with my Grandparents at the age of five. My parents were never around. My Grandma always took care of me.

A nine year old boy, RAPHAEL, sits on the bench looking onward at his Grandparents.

NARRATOR (V.O)

My Grandparents loved to bowl. It's the only exercise they would get. I tagged along to the bowling alley.

GRANDMA picks up a bowling ball and lines up her shot.

GRANDPA sits at the little table with a paper and pencil to keep score.

Grandma bowls. THREE of FIVE pins fall down.

GRANDPA

Good shot Dear!

Grandma picks up another ball and lines up. She releases the ball. The ball rolls down the lane knocking over the last two pins. A SPARE!

Grandma walks over to Grandpa and gives him a high five. Grandpa holds her hand and pulls her in for a kiss.

NARRATOR (V.O)

My Grandparents loved each other. Of course at the time, I didn't know what love was.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

My Grandparents met at a young age. They would go bowling for every date. My Grandma keeps pictures from their dates around the house.

Raphael picks up an old photo of his Grandparents from when they were teenagers.

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)
My Grandfather would be on one knee
handing my Grandmother a prize from
the claw machine. Alfred and Betty...

ZOOM IN

to the picture Raphael is holding.

INT. 1930'S BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

ALFRED and BETTY are at the bowling alley.

Alfred goes off to the claw machine. He wins a prize.

He presents it to Betty by getting down on one knee.

Betty giggles and takes the prize.

FREEZE. ZOOM OUT.

INT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Raphael puts the picture back on the shelf.

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)
Presenting a present was the best way
my Grandpa could show his love. Their
story is beautiful.

CUT TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

Raphael sits on the bench and glances to his left.

In the next lane over, another old couple cheers.

DOROTHY, nine years old, sits on the bench.

Raphael stares at her. Dorothy looks over. Raphael looks away. He looks back over. He waves at her. She smiles.

NARRATOR (V.O)
I didn't know it then, but I was in
love with that girl.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY BENCH - DAY

Raphael goes over to Dorothy and sits next to her.

RAPHAEL
Hi.

DOROTHY
Hello.

RAPHAEL
What's your name?

DOROTHY
Dorothy.

RAPHAEL
That's a beautiful name. I'm Raphael.

DOROTHY
I love that name.

RAPHAEL
Thanks. Are those your grandparents?

Dorothy nods.

RAPHAEL
I live with my Grandparents.

DOROTHY
My Grandparents watch me. My mom works
a lot.

They sit on the bench and watch their Grandparents bowl.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY BOWLING LANES - DAY

Grandma and Grandpa continue to take turns bowling.

GRANDPA
(Shouts)
Turkey!

GRANDMA
Way to go!

Grandma gives Grandpa a celebratory kiss.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY BENCH - DAY

Raphael turns to Dorothy.

RAPHAEL

Are your grandparents in love?

Dorothy shrugs and gazes at her Grandparents.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. DOROTHY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dorothy lies in bed. Her Grandmother, EILEEN, tucks her into bed.

NARRATOR (V.O)

For many years Dorothy's Grandmother would tell her the same bedtime story. Dorothy's favourite telling of her Grandparents falling in love was the first time she heard it.

DOROTHY

Grandma, tell me a bedtime story.

EILEEN

Sure, Sweet-pea.

Eileen sits in a chair next to Dorothy's bed.

EILEEN

This is the story of how your Grandfather and I fell for each other. Your Grandfather and I met many years ago when we were in our 20's. He always had tricks up his sleeves. I never knew how he felt about me back then.

DOROTHY

Do you know how he feels now?

EILEEN

I sure do! Back then your Grandfather always tried to impress me with flowers or some other random item. I wasn't going to love him that easy.

DOROTHY

Love?

EILEEN

Yes Dear, love. Now, many months later
he gave me a silver promise ring.

DOROTHY

What did he promise?

EILEEN

He promised to always be there for me
and always love me. We dated for many
years and your Grandfather saved up
enough money to buy this...

Eileen shows Dorothy her engagement ring below her wedding
ring.

DOROTHY

It's beautiful Grandma.

EILEEN

It is isn't it. Your Grandfather got
down on one knee and proposed to me
with this ring. I said yes and we got
married later that year.

Eileen points to her wedding ring.

DOROTHY

The ring represents love?

EILEEN

Yes, it represents the love we have
for each other.

Eileen kisses Dorothy on the forehead and tucks her in more.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Even after hearing the story over and
over, Dorothy would get confused by
love. Her mother wore a ring, but
Dorothy never had a father.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY BENCH - DAY

DOROTHY

What is love?

RAPHAEL

I'm not sure. I can show you. I'll be right back.

Raphael gets off the bench and goes over to his Grandmother.
We follow Raphael to the, SCORE TABLE

RAPHAEL

Grandma?

Grandma turns to him.

GRANDMA

Yes Dear?

RAPHAEL

Can I have some money for the claw machine?

GRANDMA

Of course Hun.

Grandma fiddles through her purse and pulls out change.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Here you go.

Raphael accepts the money from his Grandma.

RAPHAEL

Thank you.

Raphael runs off towards the, CLAW MACHINE.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY CLAW MACHINE - DAY

He puts in a coin and manoeuvres the claw.

The claw picks up a BROWN TEDDY BEAR and drops it.

He puts in another coin. He loses again.

He puts another coin in. He wiggles the controls. Finally, a PINK TEDDY BEAR is in the claw.

The claw makes it back and drops the bear down the chute.

Raphael takes it out.

Raphael rushes back over to Dorothy.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY BENCH - DAY

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

Here.

Dorothy takes the teddy bear. She examines it. She hands it back.

Raphael stares at the teddy bear, then at Dorothy. He races back to the claw machine

INT. BOWLING ALLEY CLAW MACHINE - DAY

He tries for another prize.

After a couple tries he wins a different toy, a ZEBRA.

Raphael dashes back to Dorothy.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY BENCH - DAY

Raphael presents the zebra to Dorothy.

Dorothy shakes her head.

Raphael throws the zebra on the ground. He rushes back to the machine.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY CLAW MACHINE - DAY

Raphael uses the claw to search around the bin.

After three attempts he finds the perfect item.

He puts in a coin.

Time passes. Raphael has collected THREE stuffed animals.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I know. I should have stopped.
However, I needed the perfect item to
show Dorothy what love was.

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

(Whispers)

I will get you.

Finally! The claw grabs onto a ROUND PLASTIC CONTAINER.

The claw drops it down. Raphael takes it out of the slot.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY BENCH - DAY

Dorothy sits on the bench waiting for Raphael to return.

Raphael rushes back over to her. He stands in front of her.

He gets down on one knee and pops open the container.

A PLASTIC DIAMOND RING sits in the container.

Dorothy stands. She picks up the ring and slides it on her finger.

Raphael stands up putting the lid on the container.

DOROTHY

Is this what love is?

RAPHAEL

(Nervous)

I-I think so.

Dorothy leans in. She pecks Raphael's cheek.

FADE OUT:

TITLE: 18 YEARS LATER

NARRATOR (V.O)

When I was 27 I was deployed to Afghanistan. I knew I'd be leaving the love of my life. I knew I'd come back to her though. Thankfully for me, she waited.

FADE IN

INT. 2011 BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

Families fill the bowling alley. A group is gathered with Dorothy.

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

When I returned from Afghanistan I visited Dorothy's Grandparents. They told me she was down at the old bowling alley. It was her birthday.

The group sings Happy Birthday to Dorothy.

DOROTHY
Thank you everybody!

Raphael walks into the bowling alley. A LLAMA stuffed animal in his hand.

NARRATOR (V.O)
To this day, I still show Dorothy how much I love her with a stuffed animal.

Raphael spots Dorothy with all of her friends.

He makes his way down to the lanes.

He gets through the crowd to Dorothy.

RAPHAEL
Dorothy?

DOROTHY
(Surprised)
Raphael!

Dorothy hugs Raphael.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)
I can't believe it. You're actually here.

Raphael holds out his arms. Dorothy kisses Raphael.

RAPHAEL
I have something for you.

Raphael shows Dorothy the llama.

Dorothy takes it. She strokes the fabric of the llama.

Raphael gets down on one knee. He holds out a diamond ring.

Dorothy lowers the llama. She sees the ring.

RAPHAEL
Dorothy? Will you marry me?

DOROTHY
Yes! Yes! Of course!

Raphael slips the ring onto Dorothy's finger. They kiss.

RAPHAEL
I love you!

DOROTHY
I love you too!

Dorothy and Raphael kiss.

The crowd cheers.

FADE OUT