

"SILVER LINING"
by
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INT. THE FAMILY HOUSE - PARENTS' BEDROOM

John, a middle aged father stands in front of a shelf full of old sports memorabilia. He's polishing his soccer medal while he stands in front of the shelf looking at the objects.

CLOSEUP:

A look at the various trophies, medals and team pictures he has collected through the years

Woman (V.O)

Parents want the best for their children.
They want them to have the life *they*
couldn't have.

MONTAGE - Little boy forced into sports

Father waking up son early to practice soccer

Father changes television channel from PBS to a soccer game

Father making son put down book and play outside

Father exchanging a Dr. Seuss book for sports magazine

EXT. PLAYGROUND - AFTERNOON

Brian, age 5, kicks the soccer ball around. His form is thin and frail. He bends over, resting his hands on his knees as he pants. He struggles over to his parents to take a break.

His mother, Kate, gets out a bottle of water and his inhaler. She pats his back as he sits down. His father, John, looks over at Brian in frustration.

John

Alright kid, time to get back out there

Brian

Dad, I need to stop. I want to go home

Brian looks at his dad as he begs him.

John

You have a hour left to practice.
Asthma is no excuse. You have
to build a tolerance if you want
to stay on the team.

Brian looks over at his mom as she turns her head away from the both of them. Wordlessly and still looking at the ground, she pats the spot beside her. Brian sighs and sits the bottle of water and inhaler on the bench.

Brian stands up and goes back to where he left his ball. He starts to kick it around as his father yells his orders.

John (O.S)

Go faster!
Look ahead, not down at your feet!
Kick farther!

Brian, barely keeping up, runs around with the soccer ball as parents continue to watch. Camera zooms into the soccer ball.

Match

Cut:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - SATURDAY MORNING

Camera zooms out to see kids kicking the soccer ball in the middle of a game. The two teams are playing against each other. All the parents are on the bleachers watching. Brian is sitting

on the bench, watching the game with a smile while he cheers on his teammates. Kate is watching the game, looking comfortable, but John has a scowl on his face. He's staring at the coach instead of the game.

John gets up and walks over to the coach. He taps his shoulder. The coach sighs when he turns to see him. John pulls him over to the side for privacy.

John

I want you to put Brian in the game.

Coach

I can't do it. He's a good kid,
but he won't last. It's not safe.

Coach goes to walk away, but John steps in his way.

John

Brian needs field time.
He can prove he's a player
and not just a benchwarmer.

Coach

I'm giving him 10 minutes maximum
and then he needs to rest.

The coach shakes his head as he walks away. John goes back to his seat where his wife starts to question him, but he ignores her.

John gets out his phone, ready to record. The coach goes to Brian, lays a hand on his back, and leans down to his ear to talk. Brian looks worried, but the coach just slightly smiles and gives him a thumbs up. The coach switches a boy out for Brian while the other boy takes a water break.

Brian gets into his position and begins to run once the play starts. The game is going on as normal, then the ball is kicked to Brian. He runs and kicks the ball down the field while dodging the other boys. He reaches the goal. His parents have stood to cheer and his coach watches in excitement. Brian kicks the ball and scores a goal. His mom cheers loudly and his father looks pleased.

Brian is smiling, but his smile begins to drop as his face starts to twist. He puts his hand on his chest as he starts to wheeze. He tries to jog over to his mom, but he can't make it. He falls down and then everyone starts to notice.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Kate and John running over with his inhaler
- B) Kate and John propping him up and putting the inhaler in his mouth. It doesn't help
- C) The coach calling 911
- D) The paramedics putting Brian on a gurney and rolling him to ambulance
- E) Kate gets in the ambulance behind them and the door closes
- F) John getting into car and following behind the ambulance

INT. - EMERGENCY ROOM - EVENING

Kate and John are sitting next to each other, surrounded by other people. John is looking at the television screen blankly while bouncing his knee. Kate is looking down at the ground with tissue balled up in her right hand. Her face has noticeable dried tear marks. Mechanically, she twists her wedding ring around her finger. A doctor comes from the back and all heads turn to his direction.

Doctor
Family for Brian Hill?

Kate and John jump up and rush over to the doctor.

Kate

How is he? Is he alright?

Doctor

Brian is going to be just fine.
I've been giving him the nebulizer
to treat him every 10 minutes or so.
It's safe for him to go home now.

Kate lets out a sigh of relief and nods. John stops shifting and stands still.

Doctor

I'll go get him for you now

The doctor leaves, but Kate and John stay planted where he left them. The doctor reenters with Brian following behind him. Kate rushes forward to hug Brian tightly. John walks up beside them and brushes his head affectionately. They all leave the hospital.

EXT. - THE PARKING LOT

They walk to their car. John unlocks the car doors and starts the car. Kate opens the back door, helps Brian get into the car, and straps him in his booster seat. After closing the door, she gets into the passenger seat

INT. - THE CAR

John starts to drive. Kate looks back to see Brian playing with his action figure happily. He looks up at her and smiles. She returns a smile before turning back around. John reaches for the radio and turns it on. The station playing is going over sports

statistics and upcoming games, etc. Kate gets frustrated, reaches over, and turn the volume to mute.

John

I was listening to that.

Kate

I think we have had enough sports for today.

Kate jerks her head back towards Brian. John nods his head, Kate looks ahead again and the car sits in silence for a moment. John looks at his wife again. He changes the radio station and turns the volume back up to listen to music. Looking exhausted, Kate turns to John.

Kate

Can we please ride in silence?

I'm trying to think.

John says nothing, but turns off the music. He looks in his mirror to see Brian has fallen asleep, leaning to the right. He smiles before turning to look at his wife. He see the side of Kate's face as she stares out the window. He turns to look straight ahead as he continues driving.

MONTAGE

The family arriving home

The family eating dinner

Kate tucking in Brian

Kate washing dishes

John watching television

EXT. - THE HOUSE - THE LIVING ROOM

Kate walks into the living room and sees John sitting on the couch facing the tv. A commercial is on, but John isn't paying attention to tv. He's staring at his phone and smiling. She goes and sits on the couch with him. She sees that he's watching the video of Brian playing and scoring. She rolls her eyes.

John

Do you want to see it?

He tries to hand the phone to her, but she pushes it away

Kate

No, I was there. I want to talk to you.

John

Give me a minute. It's almost done.

Kate grunts and snatches the phone from him. She gets up and walks away from him. She goes outside to their front porch and sits on the steps. She holds the phone in her hands. John comes out to join her with frustration and confusion on his face.

John

What's wrong with you?

Kate

You were glued to this phone when I was trying to talk to you... Brian isn't playing soccer anymore.

John

What are you talking about? He's great.

Kate

Do you not understand what happened today? He collapsed. He's not supposed

to be playing sports.

John

Kate, look at the video. He's a natural.
He has potential.

Kate

Would you stop thinking about that
video for a second?!

John looks her in surprise because she raised her voice.

John

Calm down, you'll wake him up.

Kate

He can't hear us out here. I can not
calm down because the ambulance
drove my baby to the hospital today.
The hospital!

John

You worry too much. He'll be fine.

Katie chuckles bitterly and shakes her head.

Kate

You don't worry enough. He won't be fine
if he has to continue. This was his first
time playing in a game all season and look
where that got him.

John

He just has to work on his breathing. He
reminded me of myself playing soccer
today. That's how I know he's strong.

Kate

He's not you, John! You can't make him

be you.

John shifts his body away from Kate and turns his head before continuing to speak.

John

I'm not trying to make him me.

Kate

Yes, you are and you've been doing it from the very beginning. He's had nothing but sports shoved down his throat. Any type of sport, every type of sport!

John stays silent.

Kate

You're too caught up in the past to see what's right in front of us.

John

You are being dramatic.

Kate

Listen to me! Soccer and asthma might just kill him. One day, nothing will be quick enough to save him. I'm not standing by and watching Anymore. We have to be better than this... better parents to our kids.

John whips his head to face Kate, shock all over his face. He clears his throat, but Kate doesn't turn to him.

John

Kids?

Kate just nods her head and he gets what she means. They sit in silence as they take in everything. Kate crosses her arms on her

knees and lays her head down on them. John closes his eyes and puts his face in his hands.

SERIES OF SHOTS/FLASHBACK

- A) A younger John driving down the street
- B) A car comes speeding towards John's car
- C) The driver side of John's car is crashed into
- D) John laying in the hospital bed
- E) John being pushed in a wheelchair to the car with parents and Kate gathered around

John wipes his hands down his face and exhales.

John

This wasn't supposed to be our life. It was going to be more glamorous than this.

Kate

We don't need glamour and fame.

John

Years and years of training. The NFL was mine. I earned that and a drunk driver took it from me. He took what was mine!

Kate jumps, startled by his yelling.

John

He took my sports scholarship from me during The last year of college. I lost the feel of the field.

Kate

It just wasn't destined to be.

John

I'm going to live out the rest of my career behind a desk because it was destiny. We were destined not to have a big house,

the expensive cars, and wealth... I was destined to be a failure.

Kate

You're not a failure. It was out of your control.

John

I'm a failure in someone's eyes.

They sit in silence for a moment while Kate rubs John's arm in comfort.

Kate

That driver took something more important than fame from you, didn't he? He took your father's pride.

John

I can remember waking up from surgery surrounded by flowers. I remember you, my mom, and my brother standing right by my bedside as I opened up my eyes. I remember your smiles. Then, I can my father, standing by the door with folded arms, scowling at me.

Kate

John-

John

He stood there in silence for only 10 minutes before he left. He turned back one last time and we made eye contact. That was the first of many times that I saw sheer disappointment in his eyes. I paid my way through the rest of college and I got the job I have today. I worked for this success as much as I trained for my dream success, but nothing can impress him more than sports. Typical.

Kate

Sounds like someone else I know.

John

I deserve that. I just don't want him to treat Brian like he's nothing, like he's too weak. To my father no one's a shining star if they can't play something. Soccer could give Brian a wealthy and full life.

Kate

Are you doing this for Brian's sake or your sake?

Brian turns away from Kate and looks at the bushes. Kate stares at him.

John

If he's proud of my son, then he should be proud of me... shouldn't he?

John looks at Kate with tears in his eyes. Kate sighs as she grabs him and cradles him .

Kate

We need to talk about things like this more. We can fix this. First, we take Brian out of soccer. We won't have to worry about how your Father makes him feel if that's how you make him feel. He can pick his own hobbies.

John nods and Kate urges him to sit up on his own again. She grabs John's hands and puts them on her stomach. Kate looks deeply in his eyes.

Kate

I can already see it. We'll be better. It's all going to be great.

John

I can see it too.

John nods and Kate's face breaks out in a bright smile. John stands and offers a hand to Kate. She grabs it and gets up. They look up at the stars one last time before going in the house.

CLOSEUP ON THE FRONT DOOR CLOSING BEHIND THEM

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Brian wakes up with the sun shining through his window
- B) Brian gets up and brushes his teeth
- C) Brian gets dressed
- D) Brian picks up his soccer ball while frowning

INT. THE KITCHEN

Brian walks into the kitchen, but stops short in the doorway confused. John and Kate are sitting at the table, eating cereal in their pajamas. They look up at him and smile.

Kate

Good morning.

Brian

Don't I have to go play soccer before breakfast?

John

Come sit down son.

Brian sits down across from his parents slowly.

John

You don't have to practice soccer anymore.
You don't have to play anymore. I'm sorry
we made you play.

Brian smiles and cheers while his parents laugh at his reaction.

Kate

Are you hungry?

Brian

No, not yet.

John

What do you want to do for now?

Brian

Watch tv!

John

Ok, let's go watch tv.

John scoops Brian up and goes to turn on the tv. Kate follows behind them with a smile. They all cuddle on the couch as they watch Sesame Street.

CAMERA THE BACK OF THE COUCH TO SEE THEM SITTING ON THE COUCH AND THE TV

Woman/Kate (V.O)

Parents want their kids to have the perfect life
They must first understand that *their* perfect life
isn't necessarily *the child's* perfect life... and that's
perfectly fine.

EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD

It's sunny afternoon. Brian's old soccer team is playing another game. Many kids are on the field, running around and enjoying themselves. The coaches and parents are cheering on the kids.

Super the legend: "6 months later"

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON BRIAN AND FAMILY SITTING IN THE BLEACHERS

Brian and his family are cheering on his former team. Brian is hopping up and down in excitement. He looks so much happier on

the bleachers. They watch as his team wins the game. Brian runs down the bleachers to go celebrate with his friends. He high fives everyone as they celebrate. He still looks like he belongs.

CAMERA MOVES TO SHOW THE SUNNY SKY