

Summer Leaves: A Love Story in DeKalb County

written by

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INSERT: Sign "NASHVILLE" and establishing Kamama's shots.

Winter. Happy. Inside, tables with a few PATRONS sipping coffee and nibbling. A BARISTA and/or WAITRESS at work.

CAMERA FROM BEHIND: TIM (20s-30s) in a suit and tie, a no-nonsense guy, and ALICE (over 60) dressed casual sharp, with a compassionate, grandmother spirit, awaiting someone. Tim and Alice joke and she slaps his knee, motherly.

Hot tea and coffee mugs, folded napkins... A resume sits on the table in front of Tim.

Enter BRANDON (20s-30s), peppy, dressed technological sharp, like he's about to speak at an Apple conference.

BRANDON
Tim and Alice?

They rise and shake hands and all sit.

ALICE
Hi.

TIM
Nice to meet you.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
You too.

ALICE
I hope you don't mind us taking a quiet room.

BRANDON
No ma'am.

LAUREN (20s-30s), cute, dressed business sharp, hair up, strides past Brandon's line of view, enters bathroom, and shuts the door.

Waitress enters, blocking Brandon's view, creating a blur of passing Lauren. Brandon cranes his neck to look around the waitress, but the moment is lost.

WAITRESS
(to Brandon)
Oh, sorry... Can I get you something to drink?

BRANDON
Just a water.

Waitress leaves.

ALICE
We loved your resume.

Brandon now fully engaged again with the interview.

BRANDON
Thanks.

TIM
She was impressed.

ALICE
When I started the company,
everything's different. Now, with
social media and... I can't keep
up.

TIM
(to Brandon)
So you can handle SEO, Google
Analytics...

Brandon nods. Lauren exits bathroom, looks down at her phone
and slows her step.

Brandon shoots out of his chair. He knows her! Her effect on
him is paramount. He leaves the interview in the other world.
Brandon strides to her, and before she leaves the room...

BRANDON
Wait!

Lauren turns to him, and Brandon is approaching. She doesn't
recognize him.

Whatever expression Brandon wore, is replaced by compassion. He
hugs her, and she lets him. When he pulls back, she drops her
eyes.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
You have no idea who I am, do you.

She lifts her eyes to his... POW. She knows, drops her chin
again, touched and humble. Her eyes rise to his, gentle.

LAUREN
Brandon.

PUSH IN ON BRANDON'S FACE.

FLASHBACK

2 1999 - EXT/INT. COUNTRYSIDE - CAR - DAY 2

Summer. Brandon (16) and Lauren (14), young and in love. Brandon drives and hangs his arm around Lauren, in the passenger seat, and she leans into him.

They pass a sign...

INSERT SIGN: "DeKalb County"

3 1999 - EXT. BRIDGE - DAY 3

Next day. Brandon and Lauren, feeding bread to fish or ducks, or they're fishing. She laughs at something he says.

(TAKE POV SHOT OF BRANDON?)

4 1999 - INT. BRANDON'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 4

Next day. Lauren, standing, gazing at a photo of CHILD BRANDON. Brandon, behind her at the couch, POPS a bottle of sparkling apple cider -- Lauren turns to him -- Brandon fills champagne glasses.

LAUREN
(joining him)
Is that alcohol?!

BRANDON
No. Sparking apple cider.

Lauren chuckles. They sit on the couch together. In love.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
To a great summer.

They clink glasses.

Enter Brandon's MOM.

BRANDON'S MOM
Hi Lauren... Brandon, this door stays open.

When the mom's gone, these two chuckle.

LAUREN
You want to hear something funny?
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LAUREN (CONT'D)
I never thought I'd meet a guy
here.

BRANDON
Well, I'm glad you came. I'm sorry
about your parents' divorce,
though.

LAUREN
I'm okay.

BRANDON.
Your dad doesn't mind us hanging
out?... You being 14.

LAUREN
It's just two years.

BRANDON
A few months ago, I told the guys
I'd never date a girl from DeKalb
County... And then you moved in.

A moment. They move in to kiss, young love and innocence at
play... and into their first kiss. (Her first kiss?)

5 1999 - INT. CINEMA - NIGHT

5

Busy lobby. Brandon, excited, holding two tickets, smiling and
shaking hands with HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS as they pass, saying
hello.

LATER

Empty lobby other than one or two patrons and those working
behind the concessions. Brandon checks his watch and leaves.

ZOOM OUT TO LONG SHOT, THEN PAN UP TO CEILING AND INTO BLACK

6 1999 - EXT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT (LATER)

6

(INSERT MOON?) CAMERA PANS DOWN FROM NIGHT SKY TO:

A low-mid class home. Streetlight or moonlight on their faces.
Romantic, sad. In the b.g., a packed suitcase waits on the
porch. Brandon leans against his car, worried. Lauren's in
front of him, crying. She's a wreck.

He's stroking her face, kissing her forehead & cheek, wiping
away her tears.

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LAUREN
I'm sorry. I just, I don't want to
leave. Not after being here.

BRANDON
Stay.

LAUREN
I can't. Custody stuff, and mom
has issues...

BRANDON
(hopeful)
Nashville's only three hours
away... I have two years left,
then maybe I can come up there,
and go to college... Maybe we can
go to college together.

Lauren looks away, wiping her eyes. She's calmed down and her
tears have settled as Brandon kisses her temple or forehead.

O.S. A door opens.

LAUREN'S DAD
Lauren, we have to leave in 15
minutes.

Door SLAMS shut as Lauren's dad disappears into the house.

Lauren leans toward Brandon, and their foreheads touch. A shred
of hope resumes.

END FLASHBACK

7 INT. KAMAMA'S CAFE - TERRACE - DAY

7

As they were. Lauren, to Brandon.

LAUREN
You live here now?

BRANDON
I just moved here.

Brandon shoots his eyes back over his shoulder, at the
interviewers he almost forgot. Lauren nods hello at them --
Alice watches, but Tim doodles on his iPhone.

Brandon hands her his smart phone.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Put your number in. I'll call you.

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Lauren types in her number, hands back the smart phone, steps to leave, keeping her eyes on Brandon, with a rising smile... Will he call?

BRANDON (CONT'D)
(assuring)
I'll call.

Exit Lauren. Brandon sits, returning his attention to the meeting, but he's distracted and reserved (sitting back).

Tim wears a diplomatic smile. (Is he put off, does he have time for this?) Alice, older and experienced in love and loss, smiles.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Sorry. I haven't seen her in... 15
or 16 years.

ALICE
That was the first time?

BRANDON
Yes ma'am.

ALICE
What happened?

BRANDON
She moved away, we lost touch... A
few years ago, I heard her mom
committed suicide.

ALICE
That's very sad... Have you ever
been married, Brandon?

Brandon shakes his head, looks away, and ponders... (what if it was supposed to be Lauren?)

FROM MEDIUM SHOT, CAMERA PUSHES INTO BRANDON'S FACE, CLOSE-UP

FADE OUT.

7A INT. BRANDON'S NASHVILLE APT - DAY

7A

At his desk, a pensive Brandon leans forward, reading a social-media-latest-research site on his Macbook Pro.

Brandon leans back in his chair and stretches.

He looks at his smart phone sitting on the desktop beside him.

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PAN DOWN TO CLOSE UP: On smart phone. CAMERA OUT OF FOCUS, EVOLVES INTO FOCUS.

Brandon grabs it and scrolls to Lauren's name. He pauses, thinking of pressing "Call."

ZOOM OUT

We see his bare apartment. Cold and empty. This is Brandon's life if he doesn't meet up with Lauren.

Brandon stands and SHUTS his laptop, leaving us guessing if he called her.

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN:

8

INT. NASHVILLE CREATIVE SUITE - DAY

8

ON SCREEN TEXT: "Two weeks later"

Establishing shots. Tech savy environment. Alive. Young and mid-aged professional EMPLOYEES, working in PR/Advertising.

ON: Alice writes diligently behind a desk (not on the phone).

DOLLY SHOT PASSING INTO ADJACENT ROOM WHERE: Brandon instructs 2-3 INTERNS, pointing to a computer or iPad screen.

BRANDON

We want people coming back to the site. So when people comment, let it go. It needs to generate discussion. Cool?

Interns nod, Brandon high-fives them -- they're doing good.

TECH GIRL (early-mid 20s) delivers Brandon's phone.

TECH GIRL

(knocking on doorjamb)
Sir, it was buzzing.

Brandon takes his smart phone on the way out.

BRANDON

Thank you.

Brandon leaves, and as CAMERA FOLLOWS HIM THROUGH HALL, Tim meets Brandon in passing, and Tim high-fives him. Once in the clear, Brandon slides his finger through his smart phone code. Brandon stops in a safe place to read it.

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LAUREN (V.O.)
 Hi Brandon, thank you for your
 sweet message. I too am excited
 about our time together
 tomorrow...

9 EXT. LAUREN'S CAR - DAY 9

Winter. A gorgeous backdrop as Lauren leans against her car,
 texting... She pauses, looks ahead, and is in deep thought.

LAUREN (V.O.)
 ... We have a lot to catch up on,
 and I'm looking forward to hearing
 about all that's happened with you
 over the years...

CUT TO:

9A INT. LAUREN'S NASHVILLE APT - KITCHEN - DAY 9A

Lauren, with her back turned to CAMERA, makes tea or doodles.
 CAMERA ZOOMS OUT AND VIEWS LEFT: 1 framed photo and a jewelry
 display. Photo is a joyous Lauren in a white dress with a
 bouquet of flowers and her HUSBAND in a suit. Centered is a
 display of a wedding ring and wedding band -- a shrine.

LAUREN (V.O.)
 I've grown to love Tennessee and
 I'm glad you're here...

9B EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY 9B

Lauren places fresh flowers on her husband's grave. A photo of
 her and her husband out on the town in casual wear sits aside
 with more flowers. She adjusts the decorations.

ZOOM OUT TO LONG SHOT

LAUREN (V.O.)
 My story has had it's ups and
 downs, just as anyone else's, but
 I've learned how to be happy...

9C INT. LAUREN'S REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY 9C

Lauren, at a desk, smiling and laughing, typing with headphones
 plugged into her phone and ears. The room denotes her success.
 Insert and ZOOM IN to a plaque on her desk where she's won a
 Real Estate award.

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LAUREN (V.O.)
 I've learned over time that life
 is a journey, not a destination...

9D EXT/INT. LAUREN'S CAR - DAY

9D

Lauren driving after writing the text message - she's on the countryside and wears a peaceful expression.

QUICK CUT TO 1 OF 2 SCENES: 1) A POV SHOT OF BRANDON (1999) SMILING AT HER, or 2) BACK TO SCENE OF BRANDON READING THE TEXT AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

LAUREN (V.O.)
 ... and people you knew twenty
 years ago can pop right back into
 your life.

Lauren slides a pair of sunglasses on and a smile rises on her face. It's a good memory.

LAUREN (V.O.)
 ... Understanding these things has
 helped me enjoy life, more... I'll
 see you soon.

Lauren's car disappears into the hills.

10 EXT. DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN - DAY

10

Christmas lights in trees. People coming and going. Brandon walking along a busy sidewalk, searching for a cafe using a map on his smart phone.

LOOKING IN: Lauren sits inside, by a large window, reading a novel. Brandon stops near that window, and Lauren glances up. Lauren chuckles when she recognizes him, realizing he's lost. She comes outside to greet him.

Brandon's side or back is turned to her, searching the building signs.

LAUREN
 Brandon!

Brandon's already smiling when he whips around.

BRANDON
 Hey!

They hug, so glad to see each other again. As they release and pull back, and their eyes still holding each other's... FREEZE FRAME.

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FADE OUT

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