

Waiting.

By

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INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A curtained-off bed. MILLICENT JENKINS, a very old lady, lies in the bed. Her eyes are closed. Her wrinkled fingers, devoid of jewellery, clutch the bed covers. Her breathing is laboured.

On the night table is an old framed photograph of an RAF pilot.

Beyond the curtains is a buzz of noise and the sound of the theme tune to Coronation Street.

A young nurse comes through the curtains and picks up one Millicent's hands. She takes her pulse.

MILLICENT  
(With difficulty)  
Treasures.

AMY, a middle-aged nurse, comes through the curtains.

YOUNG NURSE  
(Bending close)  
What do you want?

AMY  
She wants her treasured  
possessions.

Amy opens the drawer in the night table and takes out a small biscuit tin.

AMY  
You go off on your date now. I'll  
stay with her. Lord knows she's  
not long for this world.

The young nurse pats Amy's shoulder and goes through the curtains.

Amy sits down beside the old lady and opens the box. Inside are some letters tied up with red ribbon, an old Valentine's Day card and a small box.

AMY  
Oh, to think you have had this  
for fifty years.

She puts the card on the night table.

AMY  
There you can pretend you've just  
received it. And what's in here?

She opens the small box and finds and a ring.

AMY

So he was your fiance. Shall I  
put it on you? Tidy your hair,  
make you young again, for when  
you see him?

Millicent nods slightly, her eyes barely open. Amy places  
the ring on Millicent's finger and combs her hair.

AMY

Do you want his picture too?

She places the photograph, the card and the love letters  
under Millicent's hand.

Millicent looks down at the bundle and smiles.

Amy settles down beside her. Time passes. The Ward falls  
quiet.

A distant clock chimes 11. Amy sits still beside the  
dying woman, her eyes are closing.

Millicent suddenly gulps air and Amy jolts awake. She  
gently places her fingers on Millicent's pulse.

Millicent exhales her final breath and her face settles  
into a smile of pure delight.

EXT. HEAVEN - COUNTRYSIDE - DAY 1945

Young Millicent in 1940's clothes, and young Rodney, in  
RAF his uniform, sit together on a blanket.

Rodney kisses her lightly on the lips, then pulls  
away. He touches her hair then kisses her again. Pulls  
away, looks at her then kisses her again.

RODNEY

1994. (Kiss) 1995.  
(Kiss) That's one for every  
Valentine's Day we have missed.

FADE OUT