

Forever and a Day

By

Duran Arturo Lucio

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Lucio

Characters:

ALLEN - 28. LOST IN LIFE. EASILY ANNOYED.

LAURA - 28. SPUNKY. EASILY ANGERED. MISTAKES RAGE FOR STRENGTH.

ZANDER - 30. CALM. COLLECTED. SHOULDER TO CRY ON.

CHRISTINA - 31. QUIRKY. OBLIVIOUS.

TOM - 30. CHARMING. PLAYFUL.

Stage is set. Rows of seats face forward towards a lone coffin. The coffin is dressed with flowers. No soul around.

A phone begins to ring.

After some time, Allen enters the stage.

ALLEN (VOICE OVER)

What?! Oh hi mom. Morning. Is it 3 in the afternoon? No I wasn't asleep. I was...working out. Yes I work out mom. I do. I run and stuff, God. What do you want mom? Yeah. I don't know when I'll be home next...answer hasn't changed since the last time you asked...yesterday. Yes I will have cake on my birthday this year. Why would I lie about having cake? It's cake and I get it once every four years. No I haven't heard back from the job that's why I was sleeping out...working out. That's why I was at the gym working out. Wait...I'm getting a call on the other line. I'll call you back later. I am getting another call! If I wanted to hang up on you I'd just hang up, but I'm actually getting another call. Love you, bye. (On the other line) Hello. This is he. Tom? Yeah, I know a Tom Phillips. Is he okay? Mmmhm. Wait...he what?

Tom enters.

TOM

Allen...I'm so sorry.

Tom puts up a photo to reveal himself as the one in the casket.

TOM

I'm really sorry.

Allen glances over at Tom as if he heard him.

Tom exits.

After some time:

Christina stumbles in with a suit case.

CHRISTINA

Hello? Excuse me. Can you tell me if this is the funeral for Tom Phillips.

Allen points to the casket.

CHRISTINA

Did I miss it?

Allen shakes his head 'No'.

CHRISTINA

Thank God. My flight was running late, and I was hoping to see a few people here. Things to deliver. Tom to bury. Same old same old.

Allen looks forward.

CHRISTINA

Not much of a talker? Do you mind if I sit here and wait? I'm only in town for the day so I don't have anywhere else to go. And I think the rental car they gave me is breaking down, which is just my luck. One time my family was on a vacation, and my brother Colby didn't tell our dad he had let the air out of one of our tires. Colby was always doing pranks like that, though now that I think about it, I'm not sure what his end goal was. I don't know how a flat tire is a prank, but to be fair he was fifteen. He'll always be fifteen. Anyway, we didn't get ten miles down the road when that tire without air went completely flat and shredded. We ended up missing our flight to Florida and mom cried. Colby was so scared he never played a prank again. That and other reasons but it's not like you asked.

Beat.

CHRISTINA

I'm Christina. I'm sorry for your loss. Were you two close?

Beat.

CHRISTINA

You don't talk, that's right. Wait a second, you're Allen aren't you? You look just like the pictures.

Christina gets up and sits next to Allen.

CHRISTINA

It must be hard to lose your best friend. Did you come alone?

ALLEN

Who are you?

CHRISTINA

I'm Christina, I...

Laura and Zander barge in. Laura is giving orders. Zander is taking notes.

LAURA

We have to make sure the tickets get put on every chair, and all the food gets put out before people start showing up. And I'm thinking over here we could put (noticing Allen) Allen!

ZANDER

(Not noticing) Put Allen where?

LAURA

You're actually here!

ZANDER

Where are we putting Allen?

Laura grabs Zander's chin and points him in the direction of Allen.

ZANDER

That makes more sense.

ALLEN

Laura!

LAURA

It's so good to see you!

ALLEN

Zander.

ZANDER

Allen.

They do a secret handshake.

LAURA

When did you get into town?

ALLEN

About an hour ago.

ZANDER

Was it a long drive?

ALLEN

A couple of hours. Not a lot of traffic in the morning.

ZANDER

Are you going to stick around long?

ALLEN

I don't know.

ZANDER

Please stick around. We need to catch up after all this time. It's really good to see you, Allen.

LAURA

I'm so glad you were able to make it. I'm sorry about Tom.

ALLEN

What are you sorry for? He was your brother. *I'm* sorry for *your* loss.

LAURA

I guess we can both be sorry. I really do miss him.

ZANDER

Remember, stay strong.

LAURA

I'm fine. I'm over it. I'm sorry Allen, I didn't even notice you had someone with you. Hi, I'm Laura.

CHRISTINA

Tom talked about you a lot. (She hugs Laura) He always bragged about his younger sister. I'm Christina. I'm sorry for your loss.

LAURA

Thank you...?

ZANDER

I'm Laura's boyfriend, Zander. Did you come here with Allen?

ALLEN

Nooooo, no no no no no.

CHRISTINA

I just flew into town. I work with Tom. Well worked since he's dead now.

LAURA

Wow.

CHRISTINA

Is something wrong?

LAURA

No it's okay. I'm sure Tom would have laughed.

CHRISTINA

At what?

LAURA

Nothing. You weren't crass at all.

ALLEN

Uh...Are your parents here?

LAURA

No. They're still at home. I told them I would come set up everything. Which reminds me. Z, I think over here would be a good place for the snacks.

CHRISTINA

Snacks?

LAURA

So we're gonna need the table to go here, and then we can start setting everything else up. Allen, do you mind helping?

ALLEN

Not at all. What do you need?

ZANDER

You can come with me. We'll get the table.

Zander and Allen exit.

CHRISTINA

A table for snacks?

LAURA

We figured people would get hungry.

CHRISTINA

Isn't it a bit sacrilegious to eat something other than the body of Christ in a church?