

We Found Each Other Again

Artist's Statement:

For my story "We Found Each Other Again," it is a multi-narrative story with two speakers. 32 year old Jasmine and 16 year old Hope. They are mother and daughter and Jasmine had Hope at 16. How this story connects with the essential question, "what is family and how does it affect someone's identity" shows that even when you love family, you must make sacrifices for them to have a better life. It also connects to how Hope was adopted and she was known for that. How I made my snapshots was I did a similarity between Jasmine and Hope when they randomly go into a trance of a bad memory, showing what it's like for them to be in there and their surroundings. When it comes to dramatic irony in my text, the reader knows two things. Ne that Jasmine still misses her daughter, but who is Hope to know that. And secondly, when Hope asks about her birth parents and gets her mother's phone number, Jasmine didn't know that until she got that first text. When it comes to thoughtshots in my story, one is when Jasmine tells her husband she is ready to move on in life without her daughter, but she knew in her mind she wasn't. When it comes to motifs in my story, the deja vu is when Jasmine gives birth to Hope at 16, so I made Hope 16 when they met because of the same age of meeting one another. One last thing I'm going to talk about is dialogue. The way I include dialogue into my story is the way Jasmine talks to her husband, lying to him to hide her feelings and the conversations between Hope and her adoptive persons about her birth parents, about how wonderful kids they were. Well, including all the information about my story, I hope you enjoy this mother-daughter story!

Jasmine:

It was 7:30 pm when Jasmine was cooking dinner. Everything was fine, until it went blank. All Jasmine could see was herself at sixteen, giving up her Hope. Her happiness. Tears stream down her face, the darkness engulfing her. Barely five minutes later, black smoke rises off the pan, into the air. Her husband, Daniel, ran into the kitchen and quickly turned off the stove, releasing Jasmine from her trance.

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“Honey you ok?! What happened?!” Daniel asked frantically.

“I’m sorry, . . . It’s just, I miss her. I miss her everyday.”

“I understand Jasmine. I miss her too, but we need to move on in our lives.”

“You’re right. I’m ready to move on,”

She wasn’t ready. She would never be ready.

Jasmine knew Daniel felt the same way, but he hid it so well. She wished she knew how he could act so indifferent but hurt so much at the same time.

Hope:

Time seemed to fly by, and now it was her 16th birthday. Hope wakes up, excited for the day ahead. Her parents, Daisy and Jack, had planned her dream party. It was at her favorite restaurant, “Sailboat Cafe.” Not only was the food good, they also had a huge outside patio! It was beautiful, with fake grass and light gray couches and tables. Hope knew ever since she was 13 that she wanted to have her 16th birthday party there. Thirteen is a little early, but it’s never too early to plan a huge day, Hope had thought to herself. She got out of her bed, excitement causing her thoughts to jump around. She ran downstairs for breakfast. Jack was reading the newspaper while Daisy made breakfast in the kitchen.

“Well, good morning birthday girl! How did you sleep last night?” said Daisy

“I slept ok. I was just too excited for today!”

“I’m sure you are,” Jack said..

“Did you figure out what you want for your birthday?” asked Daisy.

“Sorry mom, not yet. I just couldn’t think of anything to ask! I will definitely let you know by tonight!”

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“Take your time! Anyway, your father and I agreed on an itinerary for today. We’re going to go to the restaurant to get set up and the party will start at 6. Sounds good?”

“Perfect! Thank you so much mom and dad. I love you guys so much.”

“We love you too dear.” they replied..

The party was all set up and Hope had spent hours on her hair and makeup. She looked beautiful. Daisy was tearing up. Hope almost cried at the sight of herself. She had never looked this good. When they arrived, she saw that everything she loved: her friends, family, they were all waiting for her.

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOPE!”

Hope was so excited to see all the people she loved there at that moment. It meant so much to her.

It had been two hours since the party started. Hope was having the time of her life, talking with family and dancing with her friends. That was until everything went blank. All Hope could see was a memory. She was ten years old, being told she was adopted and afterwards, crying for hours. While that was happening, the party stopped. Her friends got her parents and they shut down the party.

They drove home quickly and placed Hope in her bed, waiting for her to awake. After a while, she eventually awoke.

“What happened?” Hope asked.

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“Oh Hope! We are so glad you're ok!” said Jack in relief. “You passed out at the party and we brought you home. I'm sorry honey.”

“Mom? Dad?”

“Yes honey?” Daisy asked softly. .

“I know what I want for my birthday now...”

“And what is that?”

“What do you know about my birth parents?”

Jasmine:

All Jasmine could think about for 16 years was her daughter. If she was happy, if she was living a good life. Even though she didn't know her, she was still protective over her. One main memory of hers was when she had found out she was pregnant with Hope. She was so scared. She wasn't ready for her family's reaction.

Surprisingly, her husband Daniel, boyfriend at the time, was very supportive, but knew they couldn't keep the baby. He was aware they were only teens and couldn't afford her. Jasmine's family however, were not supportive at all. Her parents kicked her out of the house and none of her family members kept in contact with her after finding out. The only supporters she had were Daniel's parents. They took really good care of her.

As the months went by though, she really started to connect with the baby growing inside her. Her motherly love grew and she was scared to give her up. Those nine months were some of the best months she had in her whole life. But her birth was the worst two weeks of her life.

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As hard as it was, Jasmine picked out a wonderful family for Hope and she knew they would take care of her. A week later, Jasmine's water broke and Daniel quickly drove her to the hospital. Those two days waiting in the hospital were some of the worst. Jasmine knew she would have to give her daughter up, but she wasn't mentality prepared. All that love and bonding couldn't be let go. When she was in labor, it was the most painful thing she had ever experienced and as soon as she finished, she had to watch her baby go into someone else's arms. That night really affected Jasmine and Daniel.

Even after all these years, Jasmine couldn't move on. She never went back to highschool or went to college. Instead, she took online classes and worked a low-paying job. After the baby, she just wasn't the same.

Hope:

Hope had known she was adopted ever since she was ten. Her parents knew it was the right time to tell her. But it didn't end well. She ended up sobbing in her room for hours after that. Her parents felt horrible and wanted to hug her, but they gave her space.

Eventually, Hope was at peace with being adopted. She never thought of her parents any differently because she was adopted and it didn't affect her lifestyle. However, ever since then, she was curious as to who her real parents were. *Who were they? Why did they leave her?* Over thinking all of these questions, they eventually got to her once again.

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At one point of her life, she felt unloved. She knew Daisy and Jack loved her, but she also knew her real parents were out there somewhere, maybe not even caring she was alive and well.

At twelve, she stopped thinking this way, but never stopped thinking about her bio parents and where they were. At one point, Hope wanted to ask Daisy and Jack for some information on them, but she got too scared. She knew she would do it one day though, most likely a big birthday gift.

“What do you know about my birth parents?”

Daisy sighed, knowing this day would come.

“Your father and I knew this day would come, so we prepared. Let us help you up and bring you downstairs.”

They slowly picked Hope up and brought her down onto the couch. Daisy left the room to bring something over.

“Where is she going?” thought Hope.

Five minutes later, Daisy came back with a folder and sat down next to her.

“Before I show you what’s in this folder, I want to give you a back story on your mother. She was a wonderful girl with a big heart. She loved you so much, but she was too young to keep you. She was actually sixteen when she gave birth to you.”

“Really?! That must have been so hard for her.”

“It was very hard. But right before you were born, she reached out to us about you and we thank her for that everyday. We are so grateful to have you in our lives Hope and I’m sure

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Jasmine would be just as grateful to have you back in hers. So, here is her phone number from when I started texting her about you. You should try to reach out to her, but it's up to you.”

Hope was so surprised by what she had just heard. Her bio mom had gone through so much just to have her, she couldn't even imagine what that must have felt like. She decided to reach out to her though because she wants to meet her mom. She wants to get to know her and have a mother-daughter relationship with her. So, Hope took the number with her upstairs, grabbed her phone, and texted the number on the piece of paper.

“Mom? It's me, Hope.”

Jasmine:

For the first time in a while, Jasmine woke up with a smile on her face. Daniel had planned for them to take a walk around the city and have a picnic at the park. They haven't had a date like this for a while, so Jasmine couldn't wait. While Daniel went to the grocery store to get food, Jasmine got up, did her makeup, and put on a cute, blue-checkered dress.

As soon as Daniel got back to the house, Jasmine jumped into the car and they were off to the city. They had all the windows down and Jasmine had her head outside the window. The air on her face made her feel free. She hasn't felt like this for a long time.

As soon as they got to the city, they parked the car and started walking around, trying to find the perfect place to have their picnic. After about 15 minutes of walking, they found a cute park with a good amount of space to eat. So, they placed their blanket down and enjoyed themselves.

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They had just gotten home from their picnic and it was the best time they have had together in a while. Jasmine finally felt like herself again. She then picked up her phone to check through social media but saw a text from an unknown number, so she opened it. As soon as she did though, tears started rolling down my face.

“What's wrong honey? Are you ok?!” said Daniel in worry.

“Hope texted me Daniel! Daisy must have given her my number!”

Jasmine then sobbed happily into Daniel’s arms.

It's been two weeks now and Jasmine and Hope have been texting non stop, getting to know each other as much as possible, since they have a lot to catch up on. Jasmine was in shock as to how old her babygirl is now, but it’s the happiest she has ever been. They also made a plan to meet up today and Jasmine was bursting with emotions. She was excited one moment and nervous the next. She knew it was time though. She had to see her princess again. Daniel also knew it was time. So they got Daisy and Jack’s address and Daniel drove them there.

As soon as they arrived, they saw their baby girl standing outside in the most exciting-awkward way possible, like her mother does. Jasmine got out of the car and both her and Hope ran into each other's arms. It was like time had slowed down as they were running into each other's arms. They hugged for what seemed like years. Both Jasmine and Hope were at peace in the arms of each other.