

One Last Dance

By

Anna Douglass

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - CHEMO ROOM - DAY

MATT, 16 year old with no hair and an IV in his arm sits in a chair scrolling through his phone. A NURSE in their 30s walks up to Matt with a BAG OF CHEMO.

NURSE
(hooking up the chemo)
You ready?

MATT
(looking at the full chemo bag)
Yeah, I guess.

The Nurse smiles at Matt and then walks out of the room. Matt takes a deep breath and looks at the chemo bag again.

Matt scrolls through his phone and sees a picture of him, ARIEL, a 16 year old girl with a dancers body, and DYLAN, A 16 year old boy. They are all wearing matching t-shirts and are standing in the middle of a dance studio.

INT. HOSPITAL - CHEMO ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

An IV bag is empty. The same Nurse walks over and takes the iv out of Matt. They wrap Matt's arm. Matt, has a full head of hair. He locks his phone and looks at the nurse.

NURSE
How are you feeling? Are you feeling
nauseas? Are you tired?

Matt looks at the nurse and shakes his head. He picks up a tote bag and stands up.

MATT
I feel fine. Am I good to go home?

NURSE
Are your parents here yet?

MATT
No, I'm going to catch a ride with my
friend Ariel. She's right across the
street at the dance studio.

NURSE
Okay, make sure you take it easy
today.

Matt nods his head and walks out of the room.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Matt walks inside the dance studio. All of the DANCERS are packing up their stuff and leaving. Ariel and Dylan stop what they're doing and run towards Matt. Ariel gives him a hug.

ARIEL

What are you doing here? You just finished your first round of chemo, shouldn't you be at home resting?

MATT

My mom is running late, so I thought I would come over and say hi.

ARIEL

We all miss you. I wish you were still my partner. Dylan here keeps dropping me.

Dylan looks offended, but plays it off as a joke. He comes up to Matt and gives him a big hug.

DYLAN

(rubbing Matt's back)

Do you want me to drive you home so you don't have to wait.

MATT

No, I'm fine. She doesn't want me home alone anyway.

DYLAN

Do you want me to stay and wait with you?

MATT

No, go home. I don't need you guys to wait on me. I'm just going to clean out my locker. My mom should be here when I'm done.

Ariel and Dylan give Matt one last hug and exits the dance studio.

Matt stands alone in the center of the room and begins to walk around the floor. He jumps and checks his knee.

He opens a drawer and pulls out a camera. He sets it up then presses record. He takes a deep breath.

MUSIC UP: Slow lyrical music (e.g., Sigrid's "High Five")

Matt dances. His intensity increasing with every step. He gives everything he has and dances through the pain.

Matt does 3 pirouette on his right leg. He falls. Starts crying.

The MUSIC ENDS. Matt stays on the floor for two beats crying. He stands up and catches his breath. His face turns white. He runs and picks up the trash can. He throws up.

Matt slides down on the floor. He starts to cry again. He takes out his phone and calls his mom.

MATT
(in tears)
Hey mom, I'm done with treatment. Can you come get me?

INT. HOSPITAL - CHEMO ROOM - DAY - PRESENT DAY

The Nurse walks over and takes the IV out of Matt's arm.

NURSE
(wrapping his arm)
How are you feeling?

MATT
I've had better days.

The Nurse hands Matt his crutches and helps him stand up. Matt catches his balance. His right leg is gone.

NURSE
Is your mom downstairs?

MATT
Yeah, she's waiting for me in the lobby.

The Nurse picks up a tote bag. They walk out of the room.

FADE OUT.