

ONE MORE DAY

Written by

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"My father was the best person I have ever known and though he was taken from me on that day, nothing and no one will ever be able to take away the eight years and two days of my life that I shared with him."

-Mary Kate McErlean

INT. MASTER BATHROOM - MORNING

DAVID GOLDMAN (early 40's) is putting on a tie while looking in his bathroom mirror. He is wearing an expensive suit. The bathroom is spacious and elegant. David looks down at his Rolex watch.

DAVID
Shit, I'm going to be late.

David looks back into the mirror and quickly finishes putting on his tie.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

LINDA GOLDMAN (Late 30's) is in the kitchen making breakfast for her family. She is watching "Emeril Live" on her small tube TV in the kitchen. ELI GOLDMAN (12) is a middle school boy who is distracted at the kitchen counter playing on his new 2001 GameBoy. SARAH GOLDMAN (9) is reading a Judy Blume book while she waits for her breakfast.

LINDA
Sweetie, shut that off. Breakfast is almost ready.

Eli ignores her and continues to play on his GameBoy.

Sarah closes her book and puts it into her bookbag.

Linda begins to put eggs and pancakes onto the children's plates.

SARAH
Mom, guess what!

LINDA
What?

SARAH
Today at school, I get to be in charge of Rocket the Hamster because it's my birthday tomorrow!

LINDA
I didn't know your class has a pet Hamster!

SARAH
Yeah! Each class gets him for a month and September is our classes month!

LINDA
That's so cool! Make sure you wash
your hands after.

Sarah makes an annoyed face and starts eating her breakfast.

David comes running down the stairs into the kitchen. He
looks like he is in a rush.

DAVID
What's for breakfast honey?

LINDA
Eggs, pancakes, toas-

DAVID
-Perfect, I'll just take some
oatmeal with fruit.

LINDA
But that's not an opt-

DAVID
-Hey guys, your bus is here. Eli,
put your GameBoy away now before
you miss the bus.

Sarah and Eli jump out of their seats and grab their
bookbags.

SARAH
Bye Daddy! Bye Mommy!

DAVID
Bye Sarah!

LINDA
Eli, say bye to your father. He's
going on a business trip tomorrow
and won't be back for a couple
days.

ELI
Bye Dad.

SARAH
You're going on another business
trip tomorrow? But you just got
back from one!

DAVID
I'm sorry Sarah but I have to. Only
way for us to put food on the
table.

SARAH
 (Under her breath)
 Great. Another business trip.
 Another birthday without Dad.

DAVID
 How about I take you out for
 breakfast in the morning? You can
 be late for school!

Sarah gives a little smile.

SARAH
 Fine.

Eli and Sarah walk out the front door and get on the bus as
 Linda places a bowl of oatmeal at David's seat.

DAVID
 Great. I can't believe I scheduled
 this trip on the 11th. I totally
 forgot it was her birthday.

LINDA
 You need to start paying more
 attention to her. She's feeling
 left out and complains you're not
 around enough.

DAVID
 I'm sorry but you understand don't
 you? My job needs me.

LINDA
 So does this family.

David quickly eats the oatmeal and gathers up his briefcase
 and suit jacket.

DAVID
 I got to go. I'll try to be home
 early.

David gives Linda a kiss on the cheek and walks into the
 garage.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

David pulls into a parking spot right near the front of the
 building. He gets out of his car and we see a sign that reads
 "RESERVED: CFO, DAVID GOLDMAN."

David walks into the building and the camera pans up to the big sign on front of the building. It reads "STEVEN E. FREEMEN CANCER FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS".

INT. OFFICE BUILDING

SECURITY GUARDS

Good morning Mr. Goldman.

David nods and then walks into the elevator and hits the top floor.

David gets off the elevator and is greeted by what looks to be his personal floor with secretaries, assistants, and many workers. There is a big wooden wall with a door at the back of the room. Above the door reads "DAVID GOLDMAN".

David walks towards his office. He is greeted by SHELLY, his secretary.

SHELLY

Good morning Mr. Goldman. Here's your coffee.

DAVID

Thanks Shelly.

David keeps walking and walks into his office where he sets his stuff down and sits at his desk.

MIKE (mid 40s), one of David's colleagues, walks into his office to say hi.

MIKE

Good morning Dave.

DAVID

Morning Mike. Come on in.

Mike sits on David's couch while he gets settled in. His secretary walks in and hands him his notes and voicemails.

SHELLY

Mr. Freeman called. He said he needed to move your flight to earlier in the morning tomorrow. He said it's important.

DAVID

Are you serious? Ugh. It's my daughter's birthday tomorrow and I was going to take her to breakfast. Great.

Shelly lays the notes on David's desk and walks out.

MIKE

You know that no decisions are made without your approval right? September is a very busy month for us. I know Mr. Freeman was speaking of donating a 50 million dollar donation for one of the new cancer hospitals. These are people's lives you are making a differen-

DAVID

-Yeah yeah Mike, I've heard this shpeel before. It's my daughter's birthday though.

MIKE

It sounds like you really have to be there though. You'll be back in a couple days and you can celebrate with her then.

David calls Shelly's extension on speaker from his desk phone.

DAVID

Hey Shelly, tell Mr. Freeman I'll be there.

SHELLY (O.S.)

Yes sir.

DAVID

Thanks.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Sarah is sitting at the Kitchen counter doing some homework. Linda is starting to prepare dinner.

LINDA

How was school sweetie?

SARAH

I was holding Rocket and then out of no where, he jumped out of my hands! He started running all over the classroom, it was so funny. Finally Mrs. White caught him and put him in the cage. Everyone was screaming.

LINDA

Oh my god, that's so funny! You better have washed your hands missy. Those things are so dirty.

SARAH

I did Mom.

David walks in from the garage. Sarah jumps up and runs to give him a hug.

SARAH

Daddy! How was work?

DAVID

Oh just like every other day. Linda, can I talk to you for a second?

David and Linda walk into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

DAVID

Steve Freeman called me. He said he needed to move my flight earlier tomorrow. I can't take Sarah to breakfast anymore.

LINDA

Are you kidding me David? She's going to be devastated.

DAVID

I know Linda. There's nothing I can do. This new cancer center needs \$50 million and I need to go approve it. This donation is going to change a lot of peoples lives.

LINDA

You better make this right. Take her out for ice cream or something after dinner.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE - EVENING

The family is wrapping up dinner.

DAVID

Do you guys want to go get ice cream?

SARAH
Yeah! Can we go to Mr. Frosty's?

DAVID
Anything for you. Eli? Do you want to come?

ELI
Nah. I'm busy.

DAVID
Your GameBoy does not make you busy. Come with us.

ELI
I'm busy Dad.

DAVID
Fine. Sarah and I will go alone. Ready Sarah?

SARAH
Yup! Bye Mom! Bye loser!

Sarah sticks out her tongue at Eli and they both walk to the car.

EXT. MR. FROSTY'S - EVENING

David and Sarah are eating their ice cream outside on the patio.

SARAH
Dad, do you have to go tomorrow?
It's my 10th birthday! Double digits!

DAVID
I'm sorry Sarah. Yes I have to go.
But guess what?

SARAH
What?

DAVID
When I get back I promise we'll go to the mall and get that dress you keep asking for!

SARAH
The red one? With white polka dots?

DAVID

Yes, sweetie. The red one with white polka dots.

SARAH

But why do you always have to go on these business trips?

DAVID

I have to travel the world and make sure the money we raise is going to the right places. If I don't go, these people won't get our help and I won't get paid. Do you enjoy going to your dance lessons?

SARAH

Yes.

DAVID

Your horseback riding? Shopping?

Sarah nods her head.

DAVID

We need money for that stuff and I to have support our family.

SARAH

I'll miss you.

DAVID

Aw I'll miss you too! But don't worry sweetie. I'll be back in a couple days and we will go straight to the mall!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

David and Linda are in bed. Linda is reading People magazine: "Hottest Celebrities of 2001" with a young Britney Spears on the cover. David is just sitting in bed thinking to himself.

LINDA

What's wrong David?

DAVID

I'm not sure. Something's bothering me.

LINDA

Are you nervous about your trip tomorrow?

DAVID

Not nervous, just upset. I feel so bad for Sarah. I'm never here. She's only 9 years old. About to be 10 and I'm not going to be here for that. I'm her dad and right now she feels like she's growing up without one.

LINDA

She understands you need to work. We all do. What if you tell Steve tomorrow that you want to take some time off? Or maybe a less time consuming position.

DAVID

We can't afford that Linda. We need this job. You like going on your spa trips every other month? How will we pay for Sarah's ballet lessons? Eli's karate classes? This family needs me to keep this job. And so do thousands of other people. If I'm not there to make these decisions, the research centers are going to run out of money. It's a lot easier said than done.

David sits there for a couple seconds and just stares off.

DAVID

I can't do this anymore. I'm calling Steve and telling him to cancel my trip.

David reaches onto his night stand and picks up his flip phone.

LINDA

Do you really want to do this David?

David types in "Steve Freeman" into his phone. He stares at it for a minute and then presses "CALL". The phone rings a couple times and then STEVEN FREEMEN answers.

DAVID

Hey Steve. Got a minute? It's my daughter's birthday tomorrow. I've missed her birthday the past two years.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
I can't do it to her again, I'm
going to have to cancel the trip
tomorrow.

There is a slight pause while David listens into the phone.

DAVID
Yes I understand that Steve, but-

David is cut off with another pause.

DAVID
Alright fine. But I'm telling you,
this has to be my last trip. We
will figure out something else for
the future when I get back into the
office.

One more pause.

DAVID
Thank you for understanding. I'll
see you tomorrow.

David hangs up the phone and lays it down on his night stand.

LINDA
What did he say?

DAVID
I'll be back by Thursday. This is
my last trip.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

David is dressed in a suit and walks out of his bedroom. He has his briefcase and a small carry on bag. He also has a teddy bear in his hand that has a little balloon attached to it and it reads: "Happy Birthday!".

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM

David walks in and sees Sarah still sleeping. He lays the teddy bear next to Sarah on her night stand. He kisses her on the forehead.

DAVID
(Whisper)
Happy Birthday Sunshine.

David walks out of Sarah's bedroom and into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

LINDA
Do you have everything?

DAVID
Yes.

LINDA
Boarding Passes? Laptop? Pager?

DAVID
Yes. Yes. Yes.

LINDA
Alright. Try to change your flight home earlier if you can. Sarah would really appreciate that. I love you.

DAVID
I love you too Linda.

David and Linda kiss and David walks outside into the driveway.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

There is a taxi waiting for him and David gets in. Linda waves from the doorway and the taxi drives off. There is a drone shot of the taxi leaving and a good view of the neighborhood. You can see they have the biggest house on the street in a very affluent area.

EXT. NEWARK AIRPORT - MORNING

The taxi pulls up to the United drop off area and David gets out. He walks into the airport.

INT. NEWARK AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

David is walking through the airport and starts watching the TV monitors. He sees "The Today Show" on and watches for a couple minutes. David gets sucked into watching which almost makes him miss his flight.

INT. GATE #A35 - 7:45AM

As David walks towards the gate, he glances down at his boarding pass. All of the standard information is listed on his ticket, including the date: September 11th, 2001.

UNITED GATE ATTENDANT (V.O.)
Final boarding call for United
flight number 93, nonstop service
from Newark to San Francisco.

David looks up at the gate and sees the United sign that reads "Flight #93. Departure: 8:00AM. Destination: San Francisco International Airport."

David is the last one to walk up to the gate. He gives his ticket to the attendant and walks into the jet way. The attendant closes the door behind him and we hear a loud shut.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - 8:00AM

David's flight proceeds to the runway. The plane begins to take off. ROARING ENGINE grows loudly as the plane accelerates into ascent.

CUT TO: BLACK

ROARING ENGINE grows uncomfortably loud for a moment.

INT. MALL - WINTER

Sarah is wearing her winter coat and a scarf. She stands in front of a store window, looking at the red dress with white polka dots. A tear rolls down her cheek. She looks up and makes a sad smile.

FADE TO BLACK.