

The Last Dance

Written By

Linda Lin

Based on The Last Dance by Terrell Cooley

FADE IN:

INT. THEATER

The camera zooms in on the closed curtains. The audience CLAP. PRUDENCE, EVEREST, DIMITRI, and LEX are sitting next to each other in the audience. NIAM and GUINEVERE are backstage.

The audience continues to clap while the curtain opens. Niam and Guinevere give each other a nod from different sides of the stage. They begin to walk toward the center of the stage with wide grins on their faces.

DIMITRI

(to Prudence)

I told you she was good.

PRUDENCE

She's not bad but I'm honestly more impressed by the guy. How does he lift her up so effortlessly? Could not be me.

DIMITRI

Oh yeah, you would be one of those people who trips and falls on stage.

PRUDENCE

Please, have you seen me? I can't even walk straight.

EVEREST

Neither can I.

Prudence and Dimitri both turn and look at Everest while frowning.

PRUDENCE

(to Everest)

I'm sorry, who are you?

EVEREST

Oh, hi. I didn't mean to eavesdrop. My name is Everest, and I just met Lex like two minutes ago.

Lex pokes his head out, waves, and smiles awkwardly at Prudence and Dimitri.

LEX

I apologize for my friend here. She's

a little weird.

DIMITRI

(shrugs and ignores Everest)

Don't worry about it. I'm Dimitri and this is my best friend, Prudence. So, what brings you guys here?

EVEREST

My mother forced me. Apparently, it's good for the whole "mother-daughter bond" thing. What about you Lex? What brings you here?

LEX

Well, you see those dancers up there? That's Niam and Guinevere.

PRUDENCE

(chuckles)

Oh, so you're the third wheel?

LEX

Not exactly...we are high school friends, so we go all the way back...

A loud BANG cuts Lex off. All of a sudden, the backdrop seems to be caught on fire. Niam is holding Guinevere on stage and hears a scream backstage. Niam runs backstage through the flames. The audience members start to scream. People begin to run and try to escape the building. Panic ensues.

GUINEVERE

Niam where are you? Niam?

FADE OUT:

EXT. POST OFFICE

On the screen: 3 years later

Dimitri opens the door to his room. He throws all of his mail on his desk and takes off his jacket. He sits down and goes through the mail. He suddenly stops when he sees the letter that has the logo of two ballet dancers on it. He frowns and

opens the sealed envelope. He looks at the letter in confusion but starts to skim it. Dimitri stares at the letter blankly without processing his thoughts. He stands there for a moment, but he runs out the door with the letter in hand, sprints out, and slams the door.

FADE IN:

INT. THEATER LOBBY

Dimitri stands in the center of the lobby outside the theater alone. He is still holding the letter in his hand while examining the lobby.

The door behind him opens, but he does not seem to notice. Prudence enters with the same letter in her hand, and she freezes when she sees Dimitri, but he does not look up as he is still busy examining the letter.

PRUDENCE

Dimitri?

DIMITRI

(looks up)

Prudence?

PRUDENCE

Oh my god! It is you!

They run towards each other and hug. Everest and Lex enter the door. Prudence and Dimitri release each other

DIMITRI

You guys look familiar.

EVEREST

So do you.

PRUDENCE

Wait third wheel? Is that you?

LEX

Oh my god! It's you!

They all hug each other.

Guinevere enters behind them.

Lex releases from the hug and he turns and sees Guinevere

LEX
Guine?

GUINEVERE

Lex?

LEX
Holy crap it is you!

They run towards each other and hug.

GUINEVERE
It's so good to see you.

LEX
You too, how are you holding up?

GUINEVERE
Honestly, not so good. It's hard being back here, you know? Just doesn't feel right. Something's missing.

LEX
I'm sorry. I know how hard it was for you to lose him. Sorry I kind of disappeared.

GUINEVERE
It's okay we all grieve differently.

LEX
I'm sorry.

Lex hugs Guinevere.

GUINEVERE
Introduce me to your friends.

PRUDENCE
Hi, I'm Prudence. This is Dimitri.
Those two are third wheel and the nosy

girl who cannot stop eavesdropping.

Lex and Dimitri laugh. Everest rolls her eyes.

LEX

Well, at least she remembers you. Her name is Everest.

GUINEVERE

Nice to meet you, I'm Guinevere. My friends call me Guine and...

A billow of smoke interrupts her. A wave of blue light fills the lobby. The ghost of Niam appears on top of the staircase.

NIAM

Hello, Prudence, Dimitri, Lex, Everest, and...Guinevere.

PRUDENCE

Guys, What's going on?

NIAM

Long time no see.

GUINEVERE

What the hell is happening? Am I hallucinating? You guys see him too, right?

The rest nod simultaneously.

NIAM

You're not hallucinating, Guine. It's me Niam. Well, not exactly. Long story short, I did die but my soul is trapped, and I've been stuck here for the last 3 years.

EVEREST

What do you mean your soul is trapped?

PRUDENCE

As in you can't go to heaven because you have unfinished business.

NIAM

Yes, that. Someone's a smart cookie. Anyway, I can't move on until we (he looks at Guine) finish our last dance.

LEX

The last dance?

DIMITRI

It's the name of the show.

NIAM

Yes, the last dance. Who knew it had such dire connotations. Quite sad, isn't it? I see you all received my letters.

They all look down at their letters and then at each other with worried expressions

GUINEVERE

I don't understand what is happening. Is this some sort of joke?

NIAM

Oh, my love. I wish.

Guinevere looks startled she reaches towards his cheek reluctantly. She sighs and tries to hold back her tears.

EVEREST

Okay, Guinevere, we need to go like right now!

DIMITRI

He's not real!

NIAM

Oh, I'm not real? Is that what you tell yourself every day when you remember the little boy who no one tried to help? The boy who perished in the fire. As I felt the life leaving my body my last thought was "Whatever you do, don't turn out the lights". I was scared but no one cared. You all only cared about yourself. So, with that being said let's have a little fun.

Niam laughs hysterically as his eyes start to glow.

LEX

We need to go right now!

Everest and Lex run to the doors. Niam waves his hand and locks them.

EVEREST

Okay, we get it. You're real. What do you want from us?

NIAM

I told you; I need to finish my dance with Guinevere.

LEX

That's it?

NIAM

That's it.

EVEREST

Do you mind giving us a minute?

NIAM

You better make it quick.

Everest gives everyone a look.

EVEREST

RUN!!!

They all run to the theatre.

EVEREST

We need to get rid of Casper out there.

DIMITRI

I agree, what should we do?

PRUDENCE

Eliminate him?

LEX

As in...kill him?

PRUDENCE

No, as in beat him up with a baseball bat. Yes, kill him!

LEX

Okay, okay, Jesus, calm down. What do you think, Guine?

GUINEVERE

I don't know...I don't think that is the best idea.

PRUDENCE

Why not?

GUINEVERE

I just don't think violence is the right way to solve this.

EVEREST

Then what is? Love? This isn't Disney Channel, Guinevere, grow up.

GUINEVERE

I just...

LEX

Okay, Everest, cut her some slack, okay? They were in love.

EVEREST

Fine, whatever. How do we get rid of this ghost then? Any ideas?

The back doors of the theatre swing open and Niam appears at the back of the house

PRUDENCE

EVERYONE RUN AND FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE

FADE OUT:

INT. BOTTOM OF STAIRS

Dimitri and Prudence walk downstairs together and take a moment to catch their breath.

DIMITRI

Okay, we should be good.

PRUDENCE

Yeah...

DIMITRI

So what happened to you all those years ago? We used to be so close now

the most I get is a glance in the hallway.

They start walking from the staircase to the costume shop.

PRUDENCE

I'm sorry. After that night, I just couldn't face you anymore.

DIMITRI

Did I do something wrong?

PRUDENCE

I don't know, would you count ditching the girl you liked in the middle of a fire wrong?

DIMITRI

I'm sorry, I tried to find you, but the crowd just pushed me back.

PRUDENCE

It's okay I forgive you. (She pauses) Dimitri...you meant so much to me, you helped me get out of my comfort zone. I even liked you but of course with my luck the one time we actually get to spend time together someone has to die. I barely made it out of the fire, and I thought you were dead.

DIMITRI

Look, Prudence, I'm so sorry. I should've reached out. After the fire things got rough.

PRUDENCE

Yeah, I noticed. You stopped coming to theater and became more of a shadow around the school.

DIMITRI

Yeah, my love for all things theater kind of disappeared. Depression hit. The guilt was eating me up and I couldn't bear to talk to you. I'm sorry, I should've done better, I don't...

PRUDENCE

It's okay, I forgive you. Don't be so

hard on yourself.

Prudence hugs Dimitri.

FADE IN:

INT. CATACOMBS

Everest and Lex open a door and are at the bottom of the theater.

EVEREST

This is not how I imagined spending my Saturday night.

LEX

What fighting a ghost? Yeah me neither

They LAUGH. They stay silent for a minute as they start walking.

EVEREST

You know that night when those flames lit up the stage...it was the most alive I've ever felt in years.

LEX

That's kind of funny considering someone died but go on.

EVEREST

My mother wasn't always the easiest to be around so when she told me we got tickets to a brand-new ballet I thought there is no one she would ruin it. After that night I never saw her again.

LEX

Oh wow, I'm so sorry-

EVEREST

Save it. I'm fine and I've always considered myself more of a lone wolf anyways. I just wish I got the chance to make things better between us.

LEX

For what it's worth, we were all called here for a reason maybe you're supposed to make a few new friends.

EVEREST

Yeah, maybe you're right. Wait, did we lose the crier?

LEX

Uh oh...we better go find her.

Everest and Lex look at each other, smile, and exit.

FADE OUT:

INT. THEATER LOBBY

Guinevere stands in the center of the lobby still trying to comprehend what's going on.

LEX

Guine, are you feeling alright?

GUINEVERE

Not really...I don't know.

PRUDENCE

If it's alright with you, can you tell us what happened that night?

DIMITRI

Maybe let's not bring up the past at a time like this.

GUINEVERE

No, no it's okay I honestly need to get this out one way or another.

FADE IN:

INT. DANCE STUDIO

Flashback.

GUINEVERE (V.O.)

We had been practicing the routine since we were kids. Dreaming of the day that we would be able to perform together. Fill the shoes of so many great dancers that had come before us. The day came when they finally announced who would be performing. They called his name first. I was so

happy for him and so was every other girl in the studio. They all knew I had a crush on him. Our instructor then announced who would be dancing with him. She said my name and it felt like the world stood still. We locked eyes and smiled. Everyone applauded and we were so excited. That was the last time I saw him smile like that. So lively. The day he died, he gave me a note before we went on stage, but he told me to open it after the show. Once everything happened, I couldn't bring myself to do it.

FADE OUT:

INT. THEATER LOBBY

Everest pats Guinevere on the back. Guinevere pulls out the card in her pocket, sighs, and opens it up.

GUINEVERE

To the best partner.

EVEREST

That's it? Well, that's just a disappointment.

Prudence

You know that's just the envelope, right?

EVEREST

Yeah, I totally knew that.

GUINEVERE

She moves her fingers across the envelope and takes a deep sigh.

Alright I'm ready

DIMITRI

For what?

GUINEVERE

The last dance.

The ghost of Niam appears.

NIAM

Are you ready, love?

GUINEVERE

More than anything.

NIAM

I've waited so long for this moment.

GUINEVERE

So, have I.

NIAM

May I have this dance?

HE EXTENDS HIS HAND

GUINEVERE

Yes, you may.

Niam and Guinevere dance to "Once Upon A December" from Anastasia. Guinevere gradually starts to glow blue as she becomes a ghost. She changes from her normal clothes to a full ball gown. As the song ends she and Niam both disappear.

PRUDENCE

I hope she's happy.

EVEREST

She is, trust me.

The four of them smile at each other. They all walk out to the outside of the theater. Prudence and Dimitri walk down the left stairs, followed by Everest and Lex who walk down the right side. The camera zooms in on the blue light that shimmers in the lobby, drifts away, and points to the sky.

FADE OUT: