

THE BLUE LIGHT  
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## **THE BLUE LIGHT**

### **LOGLINE:**

A little girl and her dad have unique ways of dealing with what life throws at them.

### **MINI-SYNOPSIS:**

A heartwarming tale about how a little girl and her dad are forced to deal with the tragic loss of her mother (his wife). Feeling responsible, he hits the bottle. She escapes into her special world, where she visits her mom... until Mom has to go back into the blue light.

Dad believes his 6 year old daughter is escaping reality, but it is he who is escaping, and she helps him by dragging him into her magical world... and heals him.

FADE IN:

EXT. - NURSERY - SUNNY DAY

A MAN in his 30s puts an ORCHID BRANCH in his RED BACKPACK. He gets on his big MOTORCYCLE , drives off... A long lonely road ahead...

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - SUNNY DAY

Suburban neighborhood rooftops. The motorcycle man, RICHARD, glides toward us. Veers into the side of a house, in through the open gate, and into the backyard. Bird's eye view. No cars are in the driveway. (SONG = "Ride With Me" by Piccalo.)

JENNY (O.S.)  
Mom! Daddy's Home!

Richard gets off the bike, clips his KEYS to his belt.

Little JENNY runs out the side back large screened patio to greet Richard, who picks her up, twirling her. The same song is playing from the patio speakers.

RICHARD  
How's my princess? Huh? You've been  
a good girl today?

JENNY  
You're late. And you're in trouble.

Richard stops.

RICHARD  
I am?

JENNY  
Uh huh.  
(motions to patio area)

No more Sunday morning bike rides  
for you.

RICHARD  
I wouldn't worry about that honey.  
I've got Mom a surprise.

They start walking to patio.

JENNY  
You do? What is it Daddy? Tell me.

RICHARD  
Patience kid.

JENNY  
Aww come on!

They stroll playfully into the patio.

RICHARD  
Wanna see what I got her?

JENNY  
Yeah.

Richard opens his backpack, takes out an orchid plant.

JENNY (cont'd)  
You got Mom a plant for her  
birthday!?!

RICHARD  
No, I did not get Mom a plant for  
her birthday. This is an orchid.  
And this one only blooms once a  
year. Because it's very rare. Do  
you know what rare means?

Jenny shrugs. As Richard is talking he goes to patio table  
and gets an Oriental style pot, puts the plant in it.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
It means there's not a lot like  
this one. It blooms, but only when  
conditions are perfect.

JENNY  
What's conditions?

RICHARD  
(sigh)  
Conditions is... (thinks) You see,  
there's this flower inside here  
(pointing to a part of the  
branch)  
and it wants to come out. But it  
can't, see? It'll only come out  
when everything is just... right.

As Richard's talking NORA comes out through the sliding glass  
door. She sees the plant.

NORA  
Oh my God. Richard. You found it.

RICHARD  
Happy Birthday sweetheart.

He hands her the flower. She melts. Song changes. He takes her in his arms (she places the orchid on table). They dance.

NORA  
I told you you could find it.

RICHARD  
I was lucky.

NORA  
You're a lucky man.

RICHARD  
That I am.

Jenny looks on with a big smile. She picks up a small CAMCORDER, and starts recording her parents.

We now see the pair dancing from Jenny's camcorder's POV.

I/E. BACKYARD PATIO - DAY / FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

The scene starts to get grainier and smaller, the sound "tinnier," as we pull back and realize we're watching a TV. In front of TV is a much scruffier looking Richard slumbering on a leather recliner. A half-full WHISKEY BOTTLE by his side. Almost empty **SCOTCH GLASS** in his left hand. **REMOTE CONTROL** in his right. Reflection of the TV dancing on him. We still hear the song.

The following scene quickly unfolds on the TV screen, which we hear and catch glimpses of in between shots of Richard on recliner, himself barely catching the TV scene through slits for eyes:

NORA  
(holding up a wrench)  
The grill's stuck.

Richard sighs, takes jacket off, takes the wrench, goes to grill.

Nora admires the orchid, blowing dust off it's leaves.

**NORA (cont'd)**  
**Jenny. What are you doing with**  
**that camera?**

**JENNY**  
*Making a movie about you and Daddy.*

**RICHARD**  
*Nora, why is it that every time you  
 start on the grill it...*

OIL from grill spills on Richard. One hand gets filthy.

**RICHARD (cont'd)**  
 Aww...

Richard doesn't quite know where to wipe it. Nora doesn't notice, as she's engrossed with cleaning the orchid.

**NORA**  
*Did you get the...*

**RICHARD**  
*Oh, shit. You know I forgot!*

**JENNY**  
*Dad! You promised!*

**RICHARD**  
 (tossing the m/c keys to  
 Nora with his clean hand)  
 Here.

Scruffy Richard winces.

**NORA**  
 Richard, you know I don't like  
 driving that thing.

**RICHARD**  
 Come on Honey. Your sister took the  
 car. I'm getting greasy here. It's  
 just a few blocks away. You'll be  
 fine. I promise.

Scruffy Richard closes his eyes.

**JENNY**  
 Yeah Mom, you'll be fine. Can I go?

**RICHARD**  
 You're staying right here young  
 lady.

Scruffy Richard barely smiles, closing his eyes again.

JENNY

Aww Dad. That's not fair. Come on  
Dad.

JENNY (cont'd)

(os and loud)

Dad!!

Scruffy Richard opens eyes sharply. Looks at TV, points remote control at TV... hesitates... then clicks TV off. Silence. His head plops back to its familiar spot.

JENNY (cont'd)

Dad!!

This jolts him, drops remote. He gets up and scrambles to Jenny's room, glass still in his hand.

INT. - JENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Richard opens door. Room is dark, except for the moonlight shining through the blinds.

Little Jenny is sitting up in bed in her PJ's, a bit shaken, hugging Buster, her stuffed puppy. Her room is tidy. A **MOLECULE / SOLAR SYSTEM MODEL** and a **MICROSCOPE** sit on her dresser. A **TELESCOPE** is propped in a corner. And an orchid, not yet bloomed, rests on her night stand by a **LAMP** and a **PICTURE** of her and her parents.

A concerned Richard sits down by her, turns on the night-stand lamp. Puts his arm around her.

RICHARD

Jenny. Hey. Are you OK Sweetie?

JENNY

Dad? ...It happened again.

RICHARD

Hey come on now. It was only a dream kiddo. It wasn't real.

JENNY

It wasn't a dream Dad. And it is real. I was there.

(whispers) She played with me. In the magic garden.

Slightly closing her eyes, she takes in a scent as she says...

JENNY (cont'd)  
It smells like.. Rain. Don't you  
smell it?

Richard scrunches his nose.

RICHARD  
Jenny..

JENNY  
Swear to God Dad.

RICHARD  
Hey. You do not swear.  
(almost to himself)  
at least not until you're a preteen  
anyway.

Jenny scrunches her forehead.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Hey. I got a present for you. I was  
saving it for Christmas. But...

Jenny watches Richard leave the room, and return with a round  
clear plastic STAR GLOBE. The kind that lights up a kid's  
room to keep the monsters safely hidden in the closet where  
they belong.

JENNY  
What's that? Oh, another science  
toy.

Dad places it on the night stand. Turns off the lamp. Turns  
on the star globe. A galaxy of stars bounce off the ceiling  
and walls.

JENNY (cont'd)  
Woww.

RICHARD  
Beautiful, huh? Just like sleeping  
outdoors. (beat)

Hey. Remember that time we went to  
Big Bear Lake? You were scared a  
bear was gonna come and take you  
away in the middle of the night?

JENNY  
(smiling)  
Uh huh. And Mom said as long as it  
was a clear night, the stars would  
protect us.



RICHARD

Yeah, well you know... a long time ago....

before there were cities...,  
cars..., TVs..., radios..

JENNY

And playstations?

RICHARD

Yes... And playstations.

People didn't have a whole lot to  
do at night.

So they'd spend hours and hours  
just looking up at the sky... And  
you know what they saw?

JENNY

(shrugs)  
Stars?

RICHARD

A whole bunch of 'em. You  
see...they let their imaginations  
go wild... so they started  
connecting the stars..together.

They made drawings, forms. You  
know... like bears and hunters and  
scorpions...

JENNY

(squeezing/hugging Buster)  
And puppies?

RICHARD

Yes, and puppies. And from these...  
puppies...  
(Jenny smiles.)  
these cartoons in the sky... they'd  
make up stories.

*[As he's talking we see the stars on the ceiling come to life, the night sky. The star constellation Ursa Minor (The Lesser Bear) takes the shape of a bear. Animation. The bear snags a fish, hunters track and spear the bear - that scene pulls back and we see it unfolding on a cave wall with a hunter in front talking to a group of other cave dwellers.]*

RICHARD (cont'd)

They would tell these stories over and over and over. They told them to their kids. And their kids told them to their kids. And before you knew it, everyone thought these stories were real.

But they weren't...real. They were.. make believe.

(says this slowly looking at her intently with this last comment)

Understand?

Jenny thinks.

JENNY

Uh huh. I guess. You think my magic place is make believe.

RICHARD

Smart girl.

JENNY

But I was there Dad. (pointing to her eyes) These eyes saw!

RICHARD

Sweetie, you can't keep running away fr... You can't be spending all your time in this... place. I miss your Mom too, but you don't see me going to any make believe places all the time now do you?

Jenny looks over at her dad's Scotch glass. Dad notices. It hits a nerve.

JENNY

Daddy? When do you go back to work?

RICHARD

(starting to get slightly agitated)

Come on. Let's get some real sleep now OK? You've got a long day tomorrow. You can even bring Buster here.

JENNY

(getting upset)

I don't want to go. Why can't I just go to school tomorrow?

RICHARD  
(a bit frustrated)  
(cont'd)  
It's going to be fine. Trust me.  
She just wants to ask you a few  
more questions. It'll be like  
taking a quiz at school.

Jenny crosses her arms defiantly.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
(stern)  
Now look...

JENNY  
Dad, I swear. I see her.

RICHARD  
(getting impatient)  
You... did... not... see... her.

JENNY  
(screaming)  
I did too!!

RICHARD  
Jenny! Stop it.

JENNY  
Dad! I'm not gonna see your Doctor  
Lady!

RICHARD  
Young lady! You will do as I say.  
Period! Do you understand me?

Jenny picks up the globe, throws it against the wall; it  
shatters.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Wha...! Are you crazy? That's  
enough!!

JENNY  
Nooo!! I'm not!!

RICHARD  
(loses it, gets up,  
yelling)  
Look Jenny, you're Mother is dead.  
She's been dead for eight months!  
And there's nothing that you or  
anyone can do about it! Do you  
understand!?

Richard clutches his chest (not too drastic though).

This tirade would intimidate any child, but not Jenny. She goes toe to toe with her Dad...

JENNY

(intense)

She's not! She visits me.. or I visit her - I don't know which. And then she goes into the blue light. And I can't follow. No one can. Not unless...

She starts to cry.

Richard looks at her, regretting this outburst. He's trying like hell to hold back his own tears. Starts to lose it. He clutches his chest again. It passes. He goes to Jenny, puts his arms around her.

RICHARD

Baby, I'm sorry.  
(beat)

JENNY

Dad?

RICHARD

(emotionally drained)  
Yes?

JENNY

I'll make a deal with you?

RICHARD

Yes?

JENNY

I promise.. and this is a pinky promise....

RICHARD

(smiling)

A pinky promise? Boy this is serious.

JENNY

I promise I won't visit (pause) ... Mom anymore, if you visit the magic garden with me.. Just once.

Richard studies her. Gives in.

RICHARD  
OK Sport. You're on.

Jenny gets up out of bed, puts on her windbreaker and slippers. She's ready!

RICHARD (cont'd)  
What are you doing?

JENNY  
It can get cold there Dad.

Richard laughs. He'll go along, humoring her. They're standing, facing each other.

RICHARD  
All right...

Their pinkies lock.

The room swirls...

EXT. - MAGIC GARDEN - SUNNY DAY

Richard and Jenny holding hands. They're walking around a very dreamy surreal place, with small waterfalls, exotic plants. Richard looks the same...scruffy. Jennifer's hair is curlier. A small childlike Asian looking WOOD NYMPH darts behind some foliage.

JENNY  
(matter of factly)  
Well?

Richard takes a deep breath, smells something familiar. He smiles.

RICHARD  
Smart girl.

JENNY  
Come on!

RICHARD  
Jenny, hold on. Where are you taking me?

As he exits the wooded area, it's a very dark night. Richard looks up. A shooting star.

EXT. MAGIC GARDEN - NIGHT

RICHARD  
(to himself)  
Boy, time sure is funny in here.

Richard chases after Jenny again, catching up to her. They walk. The place looks different. Plants look like they're made out of colorful glass. They're in awe. Mostly Richard.

A RUSTLING sound! They freeze. They see the little wood nymph with pointed ears behind a tree looking curiously at them, then darts away.

A pulsing BLUE LIGHT emanates from an area in the distance. Richard notices. Jenny also sees it.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Oh Shi...

Jenny  
Dad! Please.  
(whispering)  
The blue light.

Richard looks towards the Blue Light. There's movement. A silhouette of a female... It's Nora, beautiful yet surreal walking out, a blue mist flowing around... through her.

Their eyes lock. Nora exerts a half smile... eyes conveying sadness, happiness, longing. Every emotion encased in that one special moment.

Richard's eyes swell. A single TEAR sliding down his cheek, washing away all his troubles. He is clean shaven now, not scruffy looking at all. Healed.

RICHARD  
(mesmerized)  
Jenny. Wait right here Baby, I'll  
be right back.

JENNY  
Daddy no.

Jenny's holding on tight. Richard hugs Jenny.

RICHARD  
I have to see.

Nora starts to turn, her eyes lingering on Richard for a moment, before they too leave... Into the blue light.

JENNY

Dad. Remember what I told you. You  
can't follow her!

Dad releases Jennifer's hand and goes toward Nora, towards  
the blue light.

JENNY (cont'd)

Dad! Please don't go. Don't leave  
me. Dad. Daddy. Dad!

We start hearing a distant long BEEP.

Little sobbing Jenny drops her head into her hands. CU of top  
of her head with Jenny sobbing. Slow zoom in when only her  
hair fills the screen. Her head begins to lift...

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Head lifts and we see it belongs to the older, college age  
Jenny, with wavy hair, sobbing. She's kneeling by a hospital  
bed where an older Richard is laying with **OXYGEN TUBES** in his  
NOSTRILS. The long beep gets louder. Jenny looks at the ek;g;  
she seems to be in disbelief. At one point her curls grazes  
Richard's unmoving hands.

JENNIFER

(panicky)

Dad. Please. Don't go.

We cut to the EKG that's flatlined and making that long  
beeping sound. Jen's freaking out.

JENNIFER (cont'd)

Dad! Nurse! Dad!

The HEAD NURSE pops her head in, looks at Jen and Richard,  
looks at flatlined EKG monitor. Eyes widen. Looks back out  
towards COUNTER NURSE.

HEAD NURSE

(as she's turning towards  
counter nurse)

Code Blue! We've got a Code Blue!  
Get Doctor Ganz! Now!

Dr. Ganz (her face slightly out of frame/focus) comes rushing  
down the hall. Three nurses flood the room.

Nurse A puts an ambu (oxygen) bag over Richard's face...  
squeezes rapidly two times.

Nurse B exposes Richard's chest, and does chest compressions immediately following the squeezes. The bag squeeze and chest compression process is repeated several times.

Nurse C checks the IV bag, opens a syringe.

All this while Head Nurse is pulling Jennifer away from her dad, consoling her at the same time.

JENNIFER

Dad...

HEAD NURSE

Please. You have to leave the room  
now sweetheart.

(to counter nurse)

Where is Ganz!?

NURSE A

There's no oxygen!!

Nurse A is fumbling with the ambu bag and the nearby oxygen dial.

Head Nurse springs into action, begins mouth to mouth on Richard. All this while Jen watches helplessly. Counter Nurse starts to lead her out as...

Dr. Ganz calmly yet forcefully walks in... surveys the situation...

DR. GANZ

1 milligram epinephrine.

Nurse C, ready with syringe, injects 1 mil into Richard's IV bag.

Ganz is overseeing the flurry of activity. Richard slightly moves. EKG shows a slight bleep.

DR. GANZ (cont'd)

(calmly)

Run a stat blood.

As Jen is being led out she notices something oddly familiar about Dr. Ganz, and does a slight head tilt.

Nurse C administers the blood gas. [A skinny diabetes type syringe in Richard's wrist suctions out some blood.]

The EKG monitor starts to go bleep...bleep...bleep... as we fade out.

SLOW FADE IN..



INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Same room, only calmer. Jennifer is kneeling by Richard, who's eyes are in REM.

Ganz walks in the room studying a clipboard. We do not clearly see her face.

DR. GANZ  
Well, the electrocardiogram  
confirms it.

Jennifer looks up.

DR. GANZ (cont'd)  
Honey, did you know your father  
suffered from congenital heart  
disease?... ASD to be exact?

JENNIFER  
(shaking her head)  
ASD?

DR. GANZ  
Atrial Septal Defect. Your father  
has a hole in the top chamber of  
his heart, to be exact...

He's had it for quite some time.

JENNIFER  
(softly, looking at dad)  
I know.

DR. GANZ  
Excuse me?

JENNIFER  
I.. I meant...

Ganz shifts, notices something in the air.

DR. GANZ  
Hmmm. That's strange... Are the  
windows open? It smells like rain.  
Does it smell like rain to you  
Honey?

Jennifer slightly closes here eyes, taking in the scent.

Ganz takes out a pen shaped MEDICAL LIGHT, and moves closer to Richard...

DR. GANZ (cont'd)  
Now let's take a look.

Ganz opens one of Richard's eyelids, and shines the light into his eye. Ganz' face is out of focus, however it seems to have same shape as Nora. "Unconscious" Richard's POV - CU of light coming to us - bluish tint. Ganz is behind the light, face out of focus.

DR. GANZ (cont'd)  
(under her breath)  
No change.

Ganz pulls back, Richard's eyes are in REM. Barely discernible smile on his face. Peaceful.

DR. GANZ (cont'd)  
Looks like he's dreaming again.  
Sure is a lot of activity in there..  
(beat)

I wonder where he is.

Ganz reaches back down to look into the other eye. Jennifer smiles...

JENNIFER  
Oh, I think I know where he is.

Jennifer loops her pinky with her dad's pinky. His pinky gives Jennifer's pinky a slight squeeze.

Ganz shines the blue light into Richard's other eye.

FADE TO...

I/E. - MAGIC GARDEN - SUNSET

A happy young Richard and Nora playing with little Jenny in a magical garden setting. (beat)

JENNIFER (V.O.)  
(emotional, controlled)  
Daddy. The doctors say you're very sick... b/c of your heart. But I know it's more than that...

INT. - CITY HOSPITAL - DAY

JENNIFER  
.... I just want you to know  
that... not to worry about me.  
(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)

I'm ok, I'll be fine. You did good.  
Real good...

Hey... I don't graduate 'til next  
year and I've already got three job  
offers lined up.

... I keep kicking myself for not  
talking to you like this when...  
you were... awake. I guess I'm just  
a great big coward, huh?

I.. know you stopped blaming  
yourself for Mom a long time ago,  
but now I blame myself for being so  
damn selfish. Not wanting you to  
leave me. Well, I'm not gonna be  
selfish anymore. I love you Daddy.

FADE OUT.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Establishing shot of a large northern Florida university  
campus with students walking about.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS WALKWAY - DAY

Jennifer, carrying a red backpack, walks down a wooden bridge  
next to a large oak tree. She stops at one point, resting her  
arms on the wood, looks up, letting the sun rays wash over  
her face.

Blonde college KATIE rushes Jen, gives her a really big hug.

KATIE

Jenny! Oh my God, it's so great to  
see you. How are you?

JENNIFER

Hi Katie. I didn't realize you  
missed me so much.

KATIE

Of course. I mean I had to water  
your plant but still...

JENNIFER

Well, I'm gonna settle in a bit.  
We're still on for tonight?

Jen starts walking away.

JENNIFER (cont'd)  
Yeah, definitely, definitely.

KATIE  
Oh, I almost forgot! Bobby keeps asking for you.

JENNIFER  
Yeah, yeah.

Jen stops, turns to Katie...

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Hey Katie? ... It's not a plant.

Jen walks away, Katie looking after her. A knowing smile forms on Katie's face.

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - DAY

A large bulletin board overlooks a college desk, which is right next to a twin size bed, by a windowed wall. The board is scattered with college stuff, and miscellaneous pictures of little Jenny, older Jenny, Richard, Nora, Katie. They are happy pictures. In one, Jen poses with Richard; she's wearing her high school graduation cap.

Jennifer enters the room, throws her backpack on the bed. She notices something on the desk. The orchid! The same one Richard bought Nora many years ago... finally beginning to bloom.

Jenny searches on her tiptoes through the closet, takes out a new star globe. She closes the window blinds, plops down on her bed. Pushes button, switching on the globe.

As she's looking up at the starlit ceiling....

JENNIFER (V.O.)  
A great man once said that if you look up at the stars, they'll speak to you. Tell you tales. Make believe tales. Well.... they're not all make believe...

INT. - SURREAL DANCE STUDIO

Richard and Nora dancing the same number they did in the patio. Through their dance they reveal their deep devotion to each other. This is their past... their future.

End credits roll.

Towards end of dance, and credits, a window is revealed. Outside is a little girl watching the pair dance. She is smiling, laughing. The cute little Asian girl from the orchid nursery, the wood nymph.