

Love Songs

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FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

The quiet corridor of Sandyridge High School is perfectly kept with neat lockers lining the way.

Suddenly, the BELL RINGS and the doors to the classrooms swing open as the corridor is thrown into chaos. Students walk everywhere like bees in a hive.

Amongst it all, KALEY THORNE, a sixteen year old with dark hair, glasses, and a nerdy hunch, tries to make her way through. Students bump into her, not noticing and making her journey perilous. She's not having fun.

KALEY
Hey, I'm walking here.

Nobody hears her.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Kaley makes it to the school cafeteria which is equally as busy and perilous. She makes it through the line with a tray of food and heads for a table, avoiding several people along the way.

Seated at a table by herself, Kaley is hit in the head with a BASKETBALL. It bounces off and nobody notices. Fed up, Kaley stands on top of the table, looking around with disbelief.

KALEY
(yelling)
I am Kaley Thorne and I am here.

Nobody pays any attention to her. She sighs and resumes her seat like nothing happened. HARPER MONROE (16, redhead) takes the seat across from her.

HARPER
Were you just standing on the table
or was I imagining things?

KALEY
Of course I wasn't standing on the
table, must have been someone else.
I'm invisible, right?

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

It feels that way around here.

KALEY

I wonder if you actually turn invisible if nobody ever sees you?

Harper shrugs, moving on to much more important issues.

HARPER

So, did you hear about Eli and Abigail?

KALEY

Sandyridge's perfect couple? No, what about them?

HARPER

They broke up.

KALEY

Really? Finally I get my locker back.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - LOCKERS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Kaley stands at her locker, trying not to notice the COUPLE making out right beside her.

The guy extends his hand and leans it against the door of Kaley's locker, practically squishing her.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Back in the Cafeteria, Harper continues on happily.

HARPER

They had a big fight in the courtyard this morning. Everyone saw it. She cried and everything.

KALEY

Abigail cried? I didn't know she had tear ducts.

HARPER

Full on sobbing.

They take a moment to comprehend the news.

(CONTINUED)

KALEY

Oh well, I guess life will go on.

HARPER

I wonder who he'll move on to? Eli is a good catch. He's on the football team, he's smart, and his parents are loaded. He'll probably be snapped up in a second.

KALEY

Not if you want to live. Abigail will kill anyone who comes near him.

They nod in agreement.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Kaley and Harper leave the cafeteria as the bell RINGS. They quickly head to class. The corridors grow quiet, only a few random people still milling about.

KALEY

Oh, damn it, I've forgotten my book. I'll need to go to my locker. Save me a seat.

HARPER

Will do, but be quick. Mr Spingle doesn't like late people.

Harper hurries off towards class while Kaley makes a beeline for her locker. She quickly takes out a book and turns to leave.

Suddenly, Kaley CRASHES directly into the chest of ELI (17, footballer physique). Her bag and book drops to the ground, sending the contents scattering everywhere. They both kneel down to pick up the mess.

ELI

Sorry.

KALEY

It's okay.

ELI

You're late for Math too, right?

(CONTINUED)

KALEY
Yeah, I forgot my book.

ELI
Me too.

Kaley stops what she's doing and stares at him - he knows her? He actually sees her?

ELI
You're in my Science class too,
right?

KALEY
Uh, yeah.

ELI
I'd better get my book and get to
class.

KALEY
Oh, of course, see you there.

They stand. Eli goes to his locker while Kaley starts to head to class. She turns back and steals another look at him, grinning as her heart flutters.

INT. THORNE RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

GEORGIE THORNE (early 40s, glamorous, Barbie-doll wannabe) is cooking in the kitchen. She has an apron on over her discount store designer outfit. Kaley enters, dropping her school bag on the counter.

KALEY
Hey Mom.

GEORGIE
Thank goodness you're home. I need
your help with the dinner party I'm
hosting tonight. Nothing is going
right and I just know it's going to
be a disaster.

KALEY
What do you need me to do?

GEORGIE
Stir this.

Georgie hands her a SPOON and points to the pot on the stove.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGIE

So how was your day?

KALEY

Usual.

GEORGIE

Did you learn anything?

KALEY

Why do parents always ask that question?

GEORGIE

Answering a question with a question, you're hiding something.

KALEY

I'm not hiding anything.

(beat)

How did you and Dad meet? I don't think I've ever heard that story.

GEORGIE

We were high school sweethearts. I was the head cheerleader, I could have had any man I wanted. But it was the eye of the science nerd that caught my attention. I needed a tutor and the teacher suggested your father. We locked eyes over a chocolate milkshake and the rest is history.

KALEY

How did you know you were in love with him?

GEORGIE

My heart beat faster whenever I thought of him. I actually looked forward to science class. Now that is love.

KALEY

Just like that? A beating heart told you that you were in love?

GEORGIE

Trust me, Honey, when you find love you'll know it. It will hit you like a Mack truck.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - LOCKERS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Kaley replays the way she crashed in Eli's chest. It felt like hitting a Mack truck.

INT. THORNE RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Kaley shakes her head to get rid of the memory.

KALEY

So who is coming to dinner tonight?

GEORGIE

Your father's boss and his wife are coming. Dad's in line for a promotion so we need to make a good impression on them.

KALEY

Oh no, there's no 'we' here. There's you and Dad, right?

GEORGIE

I was hoping you'd join us.

KALEY

I'll pass, thanks.

GEORGIE

Fine. I give up. Spend the rest of your life in your bedroom playing that terrible guitar.

Georgie throws her hands up in the air, showing she's giving up. They continue cooking.

INT. THORNE RESIDENCE - KALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kaley enters her neatly kept bedroom. A large window on the wall looks out at the neighbor's house and the window of another bedroom.

Standing in the neighbor's window is HARVEY (16, a little nerdy), he waves and Kaley returns it before closing the CURTAINS.

Her prized possession, a light brown GUITAR sits on a stand against the wall. She picks it up as she flops onto the bed.

Kaley absentmindedly starts strumming slowly, lost in her thoughts. The notes soon turn into a tune as she sings along.

(CONTINUED)

KALEY

(singing)

*It's a little bit magic, that thing
that you do.*

(beat)

*It's in the nod of your head, the
twinkle in your eyes.*

She pauses to write down the lyrics and music in her SONGBOOK.

As Kaley continues with her song, we pan around her room and see PHOTOS of her growing up with her music teacher, her guitar, her piano. Then there are all her music AWARDS for piano recitals. She's an accomplished musician.

EXT. SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Kaley sits in the bleachers watching the football team practice, Eli amongst them as the star quarterback. As she watches, Eli is in slow motion, the sun glinting off his dark hair while he looks perfect.

Her daydream is interrupted as Harper sits down beside her.

HARPER

Hey, there you are. I've been looking for you. Never thought I'd find you here but it was the last place I would have looked. And I always find what I need in the last place I look. So I looked here first and there you are.

KALEY

What?

HARPER

What are you doing here?

KALEY

Nothing.

HARPER

Something must have made you come here. You don't just go sit in the bleachers for nothing.

KALEY

Well, I am.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER
(spotting Eli)
Oh my gosh, you're here watching Eli.

KALEY
No I'm not. Can't a girl just sit here and enjoy the sunshine?

HARPER
Maybe some other girl, but not you.

KALEY
Fine, I was watching Eli.

HARPER
I knew it. You are totally crushing on him.

KALEY
Why did I tell you about our encounter yesterday? I knew I should have kept it to myself.

HARPER
Because you can't keep secrets from me. He's really cute, I don't blame you. I can see the attraction.

KALEY
He's also completely unattainable.

HARPER
Maybe not. He's not getting back together with Abigail.

KALEY
He isn't? How do you know?

HARPER
I was in the bathroom when Abigail and her minions were talking. I stayed in the stall until they left. She said she was over him and on the prowl for someone that deserved her.

KALEY
It doesn't matter anyway, it's not like Eli is suddenly going to ask me out or anything.

HARPER

Guys like that don't go out with girls like us.

KALEY

Yeah, you're right. But it's their loss. We're awesome.

HARPER

Yeah we are. Awesome with a capital A.

They go to HIGH-FIVE but miss so it just turns awkward. They try to erase the memory.

HARPER

Have you thought any more about joining the school band? Our first practice is this afternoon, it's not too late to sign up.

KALEY

I'm not joining band, Harper. I'm not good enough to play in public. I can't do it.

HARPER

You've been taking lessons forever, you must be able to play something.

KALEY

I don't want to play in the band. It's your thing, not mine. Besides, if I'm in the band, who can cheer you on from the sidelines? I like cheering for you.

HARPER

Fine, but when we are winning the regional band competition and getting untold fame and wealth, you're going to be sorry. You're going to be the girl that could have been in the band.

KALEY

I think I'll be able to live with it.

HARPER

We'll see.

The bell RINGS and Harper jumps up to leave. Kaley hesitates, not wanting to take her eyes off Eli.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

Are you coming? We have gym class.

Eli picks up a towel and wipes the sweat off him. He glistens in the sun like a swimwear model. Kaley is practically drooling.

KALEY

(distracted)

Yeah, let's go.

She finally gets up to leave.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

A HOCKEY GAME is going on around Kaley. She holds a hockey stick and is wearing the uniform but that's the extent of her participation.

As she's standing there, avoiding the game, Kaley daydreams. She imagines Eli standing on the field looking gorgeous. He smiles at her, winks, and does a few football moves.

Kaley is so lost in her thoughts that she doesn't see the HOCKEY PUCK heading directly for her. It HITS her on the leg, sending her falling to the ground.

Nobody seems to have noticed. A HOCKEY PLAYER throws the puck back into the game and they continue on.

INT. STROM'S CAR - DAY

STROM THORNE (40s, science nerd in a Clarke Kent kind of way) pulls up outside the school and waits for Kaley to limp inside. Her leg is BANDAGED with an ICEPACK.

KALEY

Thanks for picking me up, Dad.

STROM

Not a problem, Peanut. Are you okay? The nurse said you took a hockey puck to the leg?

KALEY

Yeah, they got me a good one. I'm going to have a bruise I can be proud of, apparently.

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