

Winter Jacket

written by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maria (18) is talking on the phone to her mother as she opens her closet door.

MARIA

Don't worry mom. Yes...yes okay I know, I know. You said this already, first cold day of the year.

Maria pulls her winter jacket out of the closet. She takes it off the hanger slightly shaking her head with a smile as she listens to her mother's pestering

MARIA (CONT'D)

I literally have my coat in my hand right now.

Maria waves the coat in the air as if she is gesturing to her invisible mother.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Okay. I love you too.

She hangs up the phone after a second and slips the jacket on. She takes a few steps away from the closet putting her phone in her pocket. Maria suddenly stops and makes a face of confusion, she then pulls out a small white envelope. She flips it over to get a better look at it, which then reveals her name. She stands puzzled for a minute completely entranced by the appearance of the letter. She looks around slightly and goes to sit on the couch. Maria flips the letter over and drags her thumb under the flap slowly opening it. She pulls out the letter, unfolds it, and begins to read it.

EDEN (V.O.)

Dear Maria, it's Eden.

Maria suddenly stops reading and slaps her hand over her mouth in shock looking up at the wall infant of her for a few seconds before returning her eyes to the letter.

EDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Hopefully you aren't reading this before I'm gone, or I'm going to have a hard time explaining this. Anyway, I know we didn't get to do all the things we wanted to.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PAST

Maria is sitting on the same couch as she was, but with Eden (18).

EDEN (V.O.)
I know we didn't get to watch all
the movies on our list.

Maria and Eden are watching a movie. The light from the TV is flashing on them as they both throw their heads back in laughter eventually they stop and Maria returns her attention back to the TV. Eden stares at her with a small smile.

EDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But, we did watch a lot. And Even
though some of them were bad, I was
just happy I watched them with you.

INT. LIBRARY - PAST

Maria and Eden are standing in the library in front of book shelves. Eden has a few books stacked in her hands. Maria excitedly grabs another book from the shelf and starts talking.

EDEN (V.O.)
I know I didn't get to read all
those books, but I honestly didn't
really have any intention of
actually reading them. I just loved
to see the way your eyes lit up and
the massive smile you had when you
talked about books.

Maria places the book onto the pile and then excitedly grabs another from the shelf.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PAST

Maria and Eden dancing around the living room enjoying themselves. They both are laughing and not caring what they look like, in pure bliss.

EDEN (V.O.)
I know we didn't get to listen to
all the music we wanted to, but I
don't care. Dancing around your
living room were some of my
favorite moments. I swear never
felt more free.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PAST

Maria and Eden are laying on the floor surrounded by books, snacks, nail polish, and other miscellaneous things. Eden lays on her back and Maria lays on her stomach next to her reading.

EDEN (V.O.)

Maria, I know we didn't get all the time we deserved, but I loved every minute we got.

Eden rolls onto her side and looks at Maria. Maria doesn't notice and keeps reading.

EDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You are the most important person in my life, I know you'll be strong. And I'll be there for your graduation, wedding, your kid's birthdays, all of it.

Maria looks up from her book and smiles. Eden rolls onto her back and Maria does the same. They both look up at the ceiling enjoying each others company.

EDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I don't know what I did to be so lucky to have had you in my life, and if I could have had it my way I never would have left you.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

Maria is still sitting on her couch close to tears. She continues to read.

EDEN (V.O.)

Maria promise me you'll keep watching those movies. Keep reading because the world needs to see that smile. Keep dancing. Keep laughing so hard your stomach hurts. Keep being the girl that held my hand every time I was at Kemo. The girl that helped me study for every test and made me the happiest I ever was. The girl that you are through and through.

Maria lets out a deep shaky breath.

EDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I love you Maria, always have
always will. Love, Eden.

Maria's eyes travel down to the bottom of the page as she
sniffles.

EDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

P.s. I don't know how long it'll be
before you find this. I put it in
your winter jacket so maybe on a
cold day in the future you'll slip
it on, find this, and I'll keep you
warm.

Maria looks over at her winter jacket that is laying in
Eden's spot on the couch and laughs as her tears finally
fall.

FADE TO BLACK.