

FRIENDSHIP GOES BEYOND LIFE

By

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CHARACTERS

Amber - 12 years old, fun girl who struggles with depression and has some medical conditions that add to the depression. Leo's soul friend.

Leo - 12 years old, kind boy who loves to play piano and worries a lot about Amber. He can be a bit of an introvert but opens up when he's with Amber. Amber's soul friend.

Grandma - 82 years old, Amber's kind and caring grandma, she gets nervous easily and takes everything seriously like Amber does but to a bigger extent than Amber.

SETTINGS

Amber's backyard

Amber's bedroom

Leo's piano room

Scene 1

(Lights up on AMBER and LEO sitting under a tree in AMBER'S backyard talking about life and nature.)

AMBER

I wish I could live in the woods as a fairy with a stream near by. I would live in a fairy village with other fairies and animals. I would have a pretty rainbow dress, rainbow wings and wear a rainbow flower crown. I could be Meadow the Rainbow Fairy and spread joy and colors everywhere I go and get my power from rainbows. All the fairies would sing and dance by the light of the moon and then I wouldn't have to think about problems life throws my way.

LEO

Yep, nature is the best.

AMBER

Fairies are super cool too right?

LEO

Sorry what?

AMBER

Never mind.

LEO

No go on, I'm listening.

AMBER

Really? Because it doesn't seem like it.

LEO

I'm sorry, I just have a lot on my mind.

AMBER

Like what?

LEO

Piano practice, there is this Liszt piece that is very difficult with rapid leaps and complex polyrhythms that my teacher wants me to learn it before my lesson this weekend.

AMBER

I understand but you don't have to worry too much about it.

LEO

I guess.

(Beat)

AMBER

Come on, let's play I spy like we usually do. I'll start, I spy something big and colorful.

LEO

Is it your house?

AMBER

Yeah! You're good at this, your turn.

LEO

It was an easy one, I spy something round.

AMBER

Is it the sun?

LEO

Nope.

AMBER

The dog toy?

LEO

Not that, one more guess.

AMBER

Really only one more guess.

LEO

You know the rules, three strikes and you're out.

AMBER

That's Baseball.

LEO

Okay you're right, keep guessing.

AMBER

Is it an Ant hill?

LEO

No, do you see an Ant hill?

AMBER

No, that's just something round in nature.

LEO

Ok, you give up?

AMBER

I don't want to but sure, what is it?

LEO

It's a flower.

AMBER

Nice one. I spy something yellow.

LEO

Is it the sun?

AMBER

Nope, that would be too easy.

LEO

Is it the yellow in your clothes?

AMBER

No but good guess.

LEO

A leaf?

AMBER

No silly, the leaves aren't yellow yet.

LEO

Then what could it be?

AMBER

It's the slide. Your turn.

LEO

That was a good one... I don't think I'm in the mood to play anymore.

AMBER

Aww why? This is what we do!

(Beat)

AMBER

(Continued)

If you're really not into the game, we could both go back to worrying about our problems.

LEO

What are you worrying about?

AMBER

My mortality.

LEO

Did something new happen?

AMBER

No, not lately.

LEO

That's good.

AMBER

That's what happens when you live with a medical condition that could take you away from Earth at any time.

LEO

Do you think about the first two times a lot?

AMBER

Yeah, I try to stay in the moment and not think about them, but I have a lot of questions. Why do people have to die Leo? Why can't we just stay on Earth forever? Trees live for hundreds of years, why can't people do that? In the Bible people could do that and there are some cases where people today are lucky and can do that. Why can't everyone be lucky and get to live to be in their hundreds? Why do people have to be born with life threatening diseases? Why do people have to develop life threatening diseases like cancer? Why do those of us who are still here on Earth have to suffer because God has taken loved ones away from us? People deserve to live long and healthy lives! We shouldn't die at such young ages like at nine days old and two years old. For that matter, we shouldn't die before our eighties. Even if that means making to eighty years old, that would be great.

(Beat)

LEO

Maybe you shouldn't focus on it so much.

AMBER

What else is there to focus on?

LEO

Piano, nature, flowers, the world around us, all the good and love in the world.. I don't know, you don't have to be a "negative Nelly" all the time.

AMBER

What? I am not *always* a "negative Nelly."

LEO

Look, I get that you have questions like that, but you don't have to be heavy like this all the time, it can become too much for those around you.

AMBER

I'm sorry if this is too much for you.

(beat)

LEO

Um, sorry, I don't know what to say and I have a lot on my mind and think I should go home soon.

AMBER

No, don't go home. I wanted to tell you something. Also sorry for making things uncomfortable, I didn't realize you felt that way.

LEO

I don't want you thinking that I will never talk about it. It's just too much when that seems to come up whenever we hangout.

(AMBER nods in understanding)

(Beat)

LEO

(Continued)

What did you want to tell me about?

AMBER

I learned about this term in school today and I feel like it applies to us. It's called Anam Cara which is Celtic for soul friends. I got you a crystal as a reminder that we will always be closer than just best friends and be each other's Anam Cara forever.

(Beat)

LEO

That's a cool crystal.

AMBER

Yeah I know you love them, but what do you think about Anam Cara?

LEO

Anam what? Sorry I wasn't listening, could we talk about this some other time? I should really get going and work.

AMBER

But it's not late and it's not even dark out yet.

LEO

I know but I really need to get some practice in tonight. See you tomorrow.

AMBER

See you then.

(LEO storms away and AMBER sits alone under the tree)

AMBER

Wait you forgot your crystal!

(AMBER holds the crystal tightly)

(Blackout)

Scene 2

(Lights up on AMBER sitting in her bed. Then she gets up and walks to the mirror. AMBER pulls up her shirt and notices that her scar has grown and she presses on her chest which is in pain. AMBER then puts her shirt down and goes back to bed and lies down to go to sleep)

(Blackout)

(Lights up on AMBER who is standing in a dark room looking at the shrine on her dresser talking to herself)

AMBER

I wish, I wish life was different. I wish we could always see our loved ones, wouldn't that be great? I think it would be great! Just imagine getting to see your loved ones whenever you wanted. I would really love to have that ability, to be able to go wherever I want and see my loved ones at anytime. How would I travel?... I know! I would fly! Yeah, I would fly around and visit family and friends who are in different states! I wish I could fly.

(Suddenly AMBER'S GRANDMA appears from the shadows)

GRANDMA

Why wait dear when you can see me now?

AMBER

(startled)

What was that? Who's there?

GRANDMA

You know flying can be very dangerous, you should be more careful.

(AMBER turns around and sees her GRANDMA walking towards her)

AMBER

Grandma, what are you doing here?

GRANDMA

I'm here to see you.

AMBER

Are you really here?

GRANDMA

Yes sweetie, I am really here.

(AMBER turns to her GRANDMA and gives her a big hug)

AMBER

Oh Grandma, I have been missing you a lot more than usual lately. Last week was so hard for me on the anniversary. I'm sorry I didn't give you a hug and kiss goodbye and instead said goodbye to you from your front door the last time I saw you.

GRANDMA

None of us knew that would be the last time you would see me alive. It was so nice that I was with you that weekend for the sleepover.

AMBER

I miss having sleepovers at your house and watching, "Phineas and Ferb" or as you called it, "Triangle Head and his Brother." I miss playing with kids toys you had while we watched TV together.

GRANDMA

I miss sleepovers too.

AMBER

I miss spending holidays and doing family birthday parties at your house.

(Beat)

AMBER

(Continued)

You were the glue that held the family together. Since you have died, none of us see each other much anymore and we all live not just in the same state, but in the same county.

GRANDMA

Maybe you should talk to the family and try to see them more.

AMBER

I have tried talking to Dad about it, but he is not sure things would work because everyone is busy with schools and jobs.

GRANDMA

I understand where you're coming from.

AMBER

Maybe I should push harder.

GRANDMA

I don't know if that's such a good idea, pushing is not nice.

AMBER

Grandma, I didn't mean a literal push.

(Beat)

AMBER

I love that I'm spending time with you right now.

GRANDMA

I love that too, but I have to go now.

AMBER

What? No? Don't go!

GRANDMA

Everything will be okay, you know I am always here with you.

AMBER

Please don't leave!

(GRANDMA turns to leave)

AMBER

(Continued)

Wait!

(GRANDMA turns around facing AMBER)

GRANDMA

Yes?

(They hug, then GRANDMA kisses AMBER'S cheek)

GRANDMA

Goodbye Amber, I am always with you in your half a heart and memories. We might even be together again soon.

AMBER

Soon?

(GRANDMA turns and leaves the way she came. Blackout, then lights up on AMBER lying in a bed and then suddenly sitting up)

AMBER

Grandma!

(Blackout)

(lights up with a spot light on AMBER'S ghost standing up in bed while her dead body stays lying still. AMBER'S ghost turns around and sees her dead body)

(Blackout)

Scene 3

(lights up on AMBER standing next to LEO'S piano while LEO plays)

AMBER

Hey Leo, of course you would be in here playing away. So um, something really weird has happened... Leo? Leo? Leo can you hear me? Can you see me?

(LEO does not see or hear AMBER and continues playing. AMBER moves over to stand next to the bookshelf and manages to take one of the sheet music books and throw it on the ground. LEO hears the book drop and stops playing. LEO puts the book back, AMBER tries to speak to him)

AMBER

Leo, hello? Leo, hello?

(Leo still doesn't notice AMBER. AMBER sits next to LEO to try to play the piano, but LEO is playing so much that it is hard for AMBER to get through and try to play. Then she waves a hand in front of his face and still nothing)

(Beat)

(AMBER moves the sheet music off the piano stand. LEO gets up to grab the sheet music and goes to the window to close it. AMBER starts playing the piano. LEO hears the piano and turns around and is stunned that the piano is playing on its own)

LEO

How is this happening?

(AMBER stops playing and notices LEO)

AMBER

Leo, it's me

LEO

Amber?

AMBER

Yes it's me, can you hear me?

LEO

Um yeah, you don't sound like yourself but yeah. What's going on?

(Beat)

AMBER

I know this will sound crazy but, I'm kind of... a ghost.

(LEO steps backwards a little)

LEO

What? A ghost? How? This doesn't make any sense, what happened? This can't be real.

AMBER

I know this is scary and sudden, but this is real.

(AMBER gets up and walks towards LEO)

AMBER

(Continued)

Can I see that music?

(LEO holds out the music and AMBER grabs it and walks backwards. LEO sees the sheet music floating moving forward away from him in thin air)

AMBER

You should sit down on the couch.

(LEO sits on the couch and AMBER sits next to him)

(Beat)

LEO

I just don't believe it. How are you here but as a ghost and why are you here?

AMBER

Yesterday, when I was home. I got a chest pain and noticed that my scar was growing. I thought it was probably just my usual pain and if I got some sleep then I would feel better. Then I had a dream where I saw my grandma, my dad's mom. It was sad but nice because it was nice to be with Grandma and I have had dreams like that before. But this one was different.

LEO

How?

AMBER

As Grandma started to leave, she said, "We might even be together soon." Then something weird happened after I woke up. I was standing up on the foot of my bed and there was a big light shining on me. Then I turned around and saw my dead body.

LEO

Wow. That's insane.

AMBER

Leo, I don't want to go yet and don't want to be a ghost! Help me.

LEO

How can I help you? What are we going to do now?

AMBER

I don't know. Think of something.

(LEO gets up and starts pacing)

LEO

I don't know what to think about or how to fix this! I'm kind of freaking out here!

AMBER

I know it's a lot but we will figure this out.

LEO

Okay...

(LEO stops pacing and sits on the couch)

LEO

(Continued)

How is it that I can hear you but I can't see you?

AMBER

I'm not sure, I'm not familiar with ghost rules.

LEO

There are ghost rules?

AMBER

Probably, I don't know.

LEO

Maybe I can hear you because I'm Pagan and a witch so I am able to hear you? But I should be able to see you as well... This is crazy, we need to figure out what to do.

(Beat)

AMBER

Maybe there *is* some way I could come back and be alive again.

LEO

How?

AMBER

Do you have any spells?

LEO

You know I'm not the kind of witch like in "Harry Potter."

AMBER

I know, there has got to be some way, right?

LEO

It's probably hard to bring a ghost back to life.

AMBER

I don't want to be a ghost and I don't want to go to Heaven yet!

(Beat)

AMBER

(Continued)

Maybe we could go to my house and I could try to get back into my body and my spirit which is currently a ghost would be able to possess my body and I could be alive again. Also, that way you could see me again if it works.

LEO

We could try it, but how would we do that? What if it doesn't work?

AMBER

I don't know, if it works I would be alive again. If it doesn't, I'll still be a ghost. This is new territory for me.

LEO

I know, me too.

(Beat)

LEO

(Continued)

Wouldn't your parents be at your house? They're probably going to check on you at some point. What will happen when they see your dead body?

AMBER

They had a gig last night and got home late, we can sneak in.

LEO

Bow? Do you have your keys?

AMBER

No, but I'm a ghost so I can walk through the door.

LEO

Oh right, okay, let's go.

(Blackout)

Scene 4

(Lights up on LEO and AMBER'S ghost in AMBER'S room looking at AMBER'S dead body lying on the bed)

AMBER

It's so weird. Talk about an out of body experience. Now this has happened to me in more than just my dreams.

LEO

She looks so peaceful and it's like she's sleeping.

AMBER

She? You mean me, maybe I shouldn't do this. What if the rigor mortis has set in?

LEO

Does it matter? Just try it, reattach.

AMBER

Ok well, I saw this on TV once, so here goes nothing.

(AMBER tries to possess her body to come back to life)

(Beat)

(AMBER'S ghost comes back out of AMBER)

AMBER
(Continued)

Whoa, did it work?

(looks at her dead body on the bed and LEO sitting next to the bed)

Dang it! Leo.

LEO
Amber? Did it work?

AMBER
No.

LEO
It should've worked, I wonder why it didn't? I don't even know how you could've died in the first place. It doesn't make any sense!

AMBER
Well I have had chest pains before. But that doesn't usually make my scar grow... and what, did my heart just have enough and decide to stop because my scar started growing and my chest hurt?

LEO
I don't know... what was it like in there?

AMBER
It was dark and I could see memories and stuff, maybe I was just in my brain.

LEO
But what about your half a heart?

(Beat)

AMBER
I need to go back, find my half a heart and make it beat again.

LEO
How do you do that from inside?

AMBER
I'm not sure, maybe CPR? Ok, here we go again.

(AMBER try again, her body is still motionless)

(Beat)

LEO

Amber? Amber? Did it work this time?

(He hears nothing and the body is still. LEO tries doing CPR on AMBER'S body)

LEO

(Continued)

Amber come on, live again, come back.

(Nothing happens)

LEO

(Continued)

Please let it work this time. Pagan Gods out there, Amber's God, Jesus, anyone please make this work. I can't lose Amber, not yet. I'm not ready to say goodbye, she's not ready to die. She is too young, twelve years old is not enough time. Make her half a heart work again! Make her scar stop growing! Get rid of her pain and suffering and bring her back to life! I can't live without her! Take me instead! Take away my music, please I'll do anything. She doesn't deserve this! Please save her! Bring her back! I didn't listen to her and I should have, I feel so awful and like all this is my fault. Don't let her worse nightmare become a reality.

(Beat)

(AMBER'S ghost comes back again and sees LEO crying at her bedside holding her hand)

AMBER

Leo.

LEO

Amber.

(LEO looks up and sees AMBER'S ghost through his tears)

LEO

(Continued)

I can see you.

AMBER

You can see my light.

LEO

Your light?

AMBER

When I was in my body, I found my half a heart and started doing CPR. Nothing was working, then I saw a light and at the end of it were the hardest losses for me who are in my shrine. There was Grandma, my other Grandmother, and my friend Willow. They were gesturing me to join them and I begged them for more time. Then I heard your voice, everything went bright and I came back out of my body.

(Beat)

AMBER

(Continued)

Leo, I know this is hard to hear but, I think I might be ready soon... or soonish, I'm not sure.

LEO

You can't be ready yet, I can see you again.

AMBER

I know. I want to stay on Earth with you, but I also want to be in Heaven with them.

(Beat)

LEO

Okay. Let's do one more thing together before you move on.

AMBER

What do you have in mind?

LEO

Well, we both love music so much, we can write a requiem.

AMBER

For me?

LEO

Well I'm not the one heading to Heaven.

AMBER

I'd love that Leo.

(Blackout)

Scene 5

(Lights up on AMBER and LEO sitting at LEO'S piano in his house. LEO plays some notes and they each sing some lines)

(Beat)

(LEO bangs on the keys)

LEO

This is hard.

AMBER

I know but we're almost done.

LEO

It's not that...

AMBER

Then what is it?

LEO

Even though you are dead and a ghost right now, I can see and hear you.

AMBER

So?

LEO

Is it right for me to be doing this?

AMBER

I think it could be. I am dead, so this is a song for the dead.

LEO

It feels weird since you're technically still here... well, your spirit is here with me as a ghost.

AMBER

Well maybe Bach or Mozart had ghosts around them when they were writing their requiems. I don't know. I just think it's nice that we're able to do this together.

LEO

Even though the song we're writing is a requiem for you?

AMBER

Yeah! You need me and you would never be able to finish it without me, so let's finish it okay?

LEO

That sounds amazing.

AMBER

Okay, how should we end it?

LEO

How about, "I wish she could stay alive forever"

AMBER

Yeah then, "But that's not how life works"

LEO

(LEO marks the lyrics while playing the melody) "But that's not how life works." Continued, "So unfortunately."

AMBER

"She will have to move on eventually."

(LEO finishes writing the lyrics and adds a melody to them)

LEO

I don't like the key, most requiems are in D minor not E minor.

AMBER

It's different like me and is a good song Leo, we're finished.

(Beat)

AMBER

(Continued)

Maybe it's time to sing it for real.

LEO

Um, why don't we go to the tree first.

(AMBER'S GRANDMA comes into the room)

GRANDMA

He's not ready to let you go, even though it's your time.

AMBER

Grandma? Why are you here?

GRANDMA

You know why dear.

LEO

What's going on?

AMBER

My Grandma's here.

LEO

Where?

AMBER

She's standing right next to me.

LEO

What's she saying?

GRANDMA

I think you two should have a funeral, it can help Amber move on.

AMBER

She said we should have a funeral, it can help me move on.

LEO

No not yet!

AMBER

I know all of this is hard, but everything will be alright and you are going to be okay without me.

LEO

How do you know that? You're only 12, you're way too young to be dead and I'm really not ready.

GRANDMA

He's right. Although, people can die at any age.

AMBER

You're both right.

LEO

What did your Grandma say?

AMBER

That you're right and that people can die at any age.

LEO

That's true, but I'm not as strong as you.

AMBER

Yes you are, you're an empath and you're able to be strong for people while at the same time, you can feel and empathize with their pain.

LEO

I just don't know if I'll be able to survive losing you.

AMBER

You'll never fully lose me, I'll always be in pictures and videos, your memories and in your heart. I'm sure you'll be able to survive this and live on for the both of us.

GRANDMA

Plus a funeral could be really nice and I want to hear that song you two were writing.

AMBER

Grandma said the funeral could be fun and she wants to hear our song.

LEO

She does?

AMBER

Yeah, she loves music and loves supporting me when I perform. Especially when it's with a close friend.

(Beat)

LEO

Okay. I think I'm ready now... Well I'll never be fully ready... but let's do it!

AMBER

I'm glad you're here Grandma.

GRANDMA

Me too sweetie.

LEO

It's cool your grandma's here, I wish I could've met her when she was alive.

AMBER

Me too.

(Beat)

LEO

Let's do this I guess... I bet it'll be amazing.

AMBER

Yeah, tragic but amazing.

LEO

This whole situation we've been put in is pretty tragic.

AMBER

Unfortunately, I'm used to having to deal with tragic situations.

(Blackout)

Scene 6

(Lights up on LEO standing next to the piano facing AMBER and AMBER'S GRANDMA who are sitting on the couch)

LEO

Amber, you're my best friend, my musical companion, my favorite person. I can't believe you're gone. You were the strongest person I knew and you were always able to light up the room regardless of the struggles you were going through. I know your life had many ups and downs and you felt depressed a lot of the time. But that never stopped you from shining your wonderful light wherever you went. You were so talented and I'm so proud of all that you accomplished in your short life. You should still be here and it would be amazing if you were. But time can get tricky and we can get taken away at any moment. You were the best thing in my life and I can't wait to be with you again in the future when it's eventually my time to leave the Earth. I love you so much and I'll love and miss you forever.

(Beat)

GRANDMA

Wow, that was so beautiful and powerful.

AMBER

I agree, very beautiful and powerful... I guess it's my turn.

(AMBER gets up and stands next to the piano while LEO sits on the couch next to AMBER'S GRANDMA)

AMBER

(Continued)

My life had it's ups and downs. At first it was good and I flew out of my mother, then I almost died at nine days old and was so close to dying that I count it. After that, my life was hard with all the surgeries and hospital stays even though I don't remember them. Then I flat lined at two years old and got resuscitated. After that I lived a mostly good life, I had lot's of friends and did many fun things. There were some hard times like losing friends and family members. The best thing in my life, was that I had the best person ever in my life. Leo, you were my best friend, Anam Cara, soul friend, other half, any words you can use to describe your favorite person. You were always there for me whenever I needed someone and I was always there for you in return. Whenever one of us was feeling depressed, the other one knew how we were feeling and felt the same way. You were so kind and amazing at the piano and could always brighten up my day even though you were feeling the same way. I hate that I have to leave you and I don't want to go, but I'm sure we'll find each other again in the future when your time on Earth is done. I love you so much with my half a heart and I will always be with you in your memories and your heart. I will miss you so much! I love you forever soul friend.

(Beat)

LEO

I'm speechless.

AMBER

Should we do the song?

LEO

Yeah.

(LEO gets up and sits at the piano and plays the song while AMBER sings it... after the song ends)

(Beat)

(AMBER'S GRANDMA gets up and stands next to the piano while she gestures AMBER to follow her)

AMBER

Grandma want's me to go now.

LEO

But we just had your funeral.

AMBER

I know and I want to have more time. But I think we both know that it's time.

LEO

I don't want it to be, but I understand.

(Beat)

AMBER

Thank you for everything.

LEO

Everything?

AMBER

Yes, thank you always being there for me and being the best person in my life whom I never want to leave.

LEO

Thank you for being my favorite person and the one person I could never live without.

AMBER

I hate that I have to go, I'm so glad I got to spend the last moments of my time on Earth with you.

LEO

I feel the same way.

(AMBER and LEO give each other a big hug)

AMBER

I think it's happening. Here's your crystal, as a reminder of our friendship and bond.

(AMBER grabs her GRANDMA'S hand and slowly moves backwards with GRANDMA and exits the stage as she says her next line)

AMBER

(Continued)

Goodbye Leo, I miss you already and I love you forever soul friend.

(Beat)

(LEO notices that AMBER is gone and hugs the crystal)

LEO

Goodbye Amber, I miss you so much and I love you forever soul friend.

(Blackout)

END OF PLAY