

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

BY JOEL KANDEKORE

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

*A dark room, we see CLAIRE holding a birthday cake as she slowly walks over to a table and places it in front of MICHEAL who is sitting at the table wearing a party hat; he is staring off into the distance.*

CLAIRE:

(Singing)

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday to Miche-

(Claire pauses)

...it's too soon isn't?

MICHEAL:

Nah, it's fine. It's not like it's gonna bring him back is it?

*Claire takes a seat at the other side of the table and looks at the empty chair between her and Michael and sighs.*

CLAIRE:

I miss him too but it shouldn't stop you from enjoying your birthday

*Michael takes of his party hat and places it on the table and looks at the empty chair. Michael picks the candles out of the cake slowly*

Come on take a slice

MICHEAL:

(Sharply)

I'm not hungry

CLAIRE:

(softly)

Come on please it's your birthday, do it for me, I made you this beautiful cake and everything, please

MICHEAL:

(Angrily)

I told you I'm not hungry

*Michael stands up and slams his fists on the table*

CLAIRE:

(softly)

Come on please it's your birthday, do it for me, I made you this beautiful cake and everything, please

MICHAEL:

(Sharply)

I SAID NO!

CLAIRE:

(SCREAMING)

Please just do it for me. I need this... I need to feel like I'm worth something again!

*Michael quickly walks over to embrace Claire.*

MICHAEL:

(softly)

I'm sorry I didn't know how much this cake meant to you... I'm so sorry, I didn't want to hurt you it's just...

*Michael sits on the once empty chair and they both look at the cake.*

CLAIRE:

(quietly)

I'm such a mess... we both are

MICHAEL:

(softly)

I guess we are but we'll get strong. One step at a time

*Michael places the candles back on the cake*

END.