

ROBBIE

Written by

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EXT. TREE - EARLY MORNING

Mommy Robin sits upon a nest.

A breeze ruffles her feathers and exposes one robin egg. Mommy Robin wiggles her bottom to comfort her egg.

She closes her eyes, a gust of wind shakes the tree.

DADDY ROBIN (O.S.)
Chirp, chirp?

Daddy Asks Mommy Robin if everything is ok.

MOMMY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp.

Mommy Robin confirms everything is fine.

Another rush of wind rattles the tree and part of the nest breaks away. Mommy Robin gathers the remains in her beak and packs it tightly around her egg.

Daddy Robin lands on a branch next to the nest.

DADDY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp, chirp.

Daddy Robin confused why it's so windy.

MOMMY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp, chirp!

Mommy Robin worried the wind will sweep away the nest, snuggles tightly in place.

The wind whips and whistles through the branches.

DADDY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp, chirp, chirp!

Daddy Robin signals to Mommy Robin, it's not safe here.

MOMMY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp, chirp, chirp!

Mommy Robin, stubborn to leave her only egg, clamps down in the nest.

A violent burst of wind throws Daddy Robin from the tree. Mommy Robin concerned for his safety, pops her head up and exposes her egg once again.

MOMMY ROBIN (CONT'D)
Chirp, chirp?!

Mommy asks if Daddy Robin is ok.

DADDY ROBIN (O.S.)
Chirp, chirp!

Daddy Robin chirps back that he is fine.

A hurricane thrust rips apart the nest, sending the egg into a downward spiral, bouncing from limb to limb. Mommy Robin gasps.

MOMMY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp!

The egg lands safely in the grass. Mommy Robin relieved.

EXT. GRASS - EARLY MORNING

Daddy Robin rushes to the egg.

DADDY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp!

Daddy Robin shows concern over a slight crack in the egg. Mommy Robin swoops down and lands beside him.

MOMMY ROBIN
Chirp, chirp, chirp, chirp?!

Mommy Robin chirps in a panic.

EXT. GRASS - MORNING

The sun shines directly on the baby blue egg as it sits comfortably in the grass. The crack grows larger, and with a couple swift thrusts from inside the egg, the baby robin's head is exposed.

Eyes closed, the weak premature bird struggles to lift his head. He begs for food.

A pair of tennis shoes, sporting funky socks steps next to the broken shell. The baby robin motions for food again, but quickly drops his head in defeat.

The man with funky socks races to the patio door and goes inside. He returns with his wife and daughter.

The figures cast shadows over the bird.

Baby robin stretches out with all his might, but is unable to push his way out of the shell.

The family searches for the nest.

The daughter returns with the remains of a nest and gently places the bird inside it. He cries out for food.

ROBBIE

(weak)

Tweet.

The man rushes back with a hanging basket and gently places the nest inside.

Baby robin makes another effort to release from the shell, but collapses in exhaustion.

Daddy Robin watches in the b.g. as the man carries the basket to the garage.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The man enters the garage and places the basket under a warm light. Baby robin sits in the f.g. and cries out for food.

ROBBIE

Tweet.

A young boy enters and sits next to his Dad.

Baby robin stretches his underdeveloped wings and free's himself from the shell. He rolls back in the nest and exposes his premature pot belly. The father and son laugh.

Mom and daughter return with food. Excited to see the baby robin out of his shell, the girl carefully props him into a comfortable position.

She places a freshly picked red, white and pink petunia next to him. She calls his name.

DAUGHTER

Robbie!

Dad crushes grubs and blueberries in a small bowl.

ROBBIE

Tweet, tweet.

Dad drops a tweezer full into Robbie's mouth. He seems content and rests his head upon the flower. Time to nap.

INT. GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Robbie rests peacefully in his basket under the light.

The garage door opens and sunlight slowly fills the room. Robbie, startled and still unable to open his eyes, raises his beak and begs for food.

The family of four enter the garage.

The parents pack the car with pool toys, towels and a cooler. The daughter grabs the basket and places it in the backseat between her and her brother.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Mommy Robin watches in the b.g. as they pull out of the driveway.

ROBBIE
(cries)
Tweet, tweet.

Robbie pops his head up for more food.

The daughter places a crushed blueberry in the tweezers and presents it to him. He gladly takes it.

EXT. GRASS - CONTINUOUS

Mommy Robin now watches in the f.g. as the car drives away.

Music cue:

Time lapse of events with Robbie in the f.g.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Robbie rests in the car.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - AFTERNOON

Robbie awakens and stretches out his legs and wings.

Dad carries the basket to the pool area.

EXT. POOL - LATE AFTERNOON

Another family of four is introduced to Robbie.

Robbie cries out for food as the kids play in the pool.

The girls feed Robbie another grub.

Robbie sleeps while the kids play in the b.g.

Mom and Dad check on Robbie.

The Dad carries the basket from the pool to the driveway.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Robbie begs for food while the parents load the car.

INT. CAR - EVENING

The daughter places the basket in the backseat between her and her brother.

Robbie, struggles to lift his head and chirps for food. The daughter excitedly gives him crushed blueberries on the car ride home.

Robbie rests.

Daddy Robin watches in the b.g. as they pull into the driveway.

INT. GARAGE - EVENING

They all exit the car.

The daughter places the basket under the light and rubs Robbie's forehead.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Robbie motions and calls for food, but no one is around. He goes back to sleep.

Dad enters the garage from the inside. Robbie happily takes more blueberries and grubs before falling back asleep. Goodnight Robbie.

End music/time lapse

INT. GARAGE - EARLY MORNING

Robbie lays in the f.g. next to the wilted flower. He is barely alive. Still unable to open his eyes, he motions for food. No one is around.

Dad enters the garage from the inside and motions for Robbie to take the food, but he is too weak and slumps in his nest.

After several attempts, Robbie takes another grub then flops his head onto the flower.

Dad wipes a tear. He knows Robbie won't make it through the day. He walks back in the house.

INT. GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Robbie sits in the f.g. the garage door opens and slowly fills the room with sunlight.

Robbie, too frail to hold his head up, snuggles with the dying flower in his basket.

Dad approaches and places his thumb between Robbie's eyes and strokes the tiny hairs on his head.

He attempts to feed Robbie again, but he isn't interested. His breathing pattern is erratic, his time is almost up.

INT. GARAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

Robbie is startled when the Dad enters the garage from the inside. He picks up the baby bird and holds him in his hand. Robbie slowly stops breathing. Dad wipes a tear.

Dad places Robbie back in his nest upon the faded flower. He turns off the light and walks inside.

EXT. GARDEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Dad holds a flat rock in his hand and writes R.I.P Robbie on it. The son holds the basket as Mommy and Daddy Robin watch in the b.g.

Mom and daughter watch on the deck as the Dad and son dig a small hole on the fence line.

The daughter can't bear to watch. She covers her face and runs inside.

Dad buries the bird and places the stone in the dirt.

Mommy and Daddy Robin watch the son place the dying petunia upon Robbie's grave.

THE END