

# KISS AND CRY

## Short Synopsis

A romantic drama based on the story of Carley Allison, a promising 18 year old figure skater and singer who finds love just as she is diagnosed with a rare 1 in 3.5 billion form of sarcoma.

## Medium-length Synopsis

At 17, Carley Allison aces her skating competition, moving from Junior to Elite status. The 2014 Sochi Olympics are now a real possibility! The girl whose motto is “always smile” really has something to smile about.

Out celebrating with her friends, Carley meets John Servinis. Their banter is playful and sharp. They make their first pinky promise to each other. And, as someone breaks out an old karaoke machine, John hears Carley sing. The beautiful girl has a beautiful voice. John now has one goal: to impress Carley. And, on their first date, he does. Until Carley collapses!

At the hospital, Dr. Klein tells Carley and her family that she has a malignant melanoma in her trachea. In all of medical history, there have been only seven known cases. The large tumor is too close to her thyroid to remove immediately. First, she will need chemotherapy to shrink its size and a tracheotomy to breathe. Carley is sure she can beat the cancer but is concerned about the impact of the procedure on her singing voice.

With a huge toy panda under his arm, John visits Carley in the hospital. He has a critical question for the patient: will you be my girlfriend?

Back at home, Carley, her parents and her sisters learn the delicate and sometimes messy art of caring for a trache patient. They are all impacted, in some way, by the harsh side effects of chemotherapy. And, always there is John – tender, supportive, funny. But Carley wants more from him. She refuses him permission to ever feel sorry for her. She insists he pinky promises that, no matter what, he will always smile.

John and Carley go skating together, cook dinners together, and fall deeply in love. Ready to test her voice, Carley records her own song, *I Loved You* and posts it to YouTube. It’s good, really good. The post goes viral and is picked up by local media. People all over the world tweet Carley messages of love and support.

On Prom Night, despite the trials of the past months, Carley greets John looking

gorgeous. On the dance floor among the twinkling lights, they are a happy, beautiful couple.

Carley's tumor is removed. She determines that, because she loves him, she must break-up with John. Their worlds are too different now. She doesn't believe she can make him happy. He calls. He texts. But, she remains adamant.

At the hospital, a new diagnosis is offered. Carley has Clear cell Sarcoma, the second known case on earth. But, the surgery seems to have been successful. If she passes four healthy CT scans, her cancer will be in remission.

At one of her regular CT scans, Carley meets a hospital donor who is also a senior official with the National Hockey League. He is there to invite Carley to sing the National Anthem at an upcoming game. In front of thousands of people and a televised audience, Carley hits it out of the park but she misses John.

Clearly, he misses her, too, and has plotted with Carley's parents to make his case for their relationship. One evening, the doorbell rings. There stands John – with his entire Greek family bearing a traditional Greek dinner. It's a lovely evening and, in front of both families, the couple is reunited.

The cancer spreads to Carley's lungs. Bathed in the love of her family and John, Carley records and blogs her thoughts and feelings about love and death, kissing and crying.

Carley Elle Allison died in Toronto on March 31, 2015. She was nineteen years old.

## **Long Synopsis**

At 17, Carley Allison aces her skating competition, moving from Junior to Elite status. The 2014 Sochi Olympics are now a real possibility! The girl whose motto is "always smile" really has something to smile about.

Celebrating at a house party with her friends, Carley meets John Servinis. Although they share a biology class, Carley claims she hasn't noticed the handsome young man at school. Their banter is playful and sharp. They make their first pinky promise to each other. And, as someone breaks out an old karaoke machine, John hears Carley sing. The beautiful girl has a beautiful voice.

During a practice skate, Carley faints. The diagnosis - exercise-induced asthma. A puffer controls the wheezing but only a little. Her doctor's response is to test

her blood; her coach's response is to push her harder. John just wants to impress her. And, on their first date, he does. Until Carley collapses!

At the hospital, Dr. Klein tells Carley and her family that she has a malignant melanoma in her trachea. In all of medical history, there have been only seven known cases. This young woman is one in a billion. The large tumor is too close to her thyroid to remove immediately. First, she will need chemotherapy to shrink its size and a tracheotomy to breathe. Carley is sure she can beat the cancer but is concerned about the impact of the procedure on her singing voice.

With a huge toy panda under his arm, John visits Carley in the hospital. She's shy about him seeing the trache tube. So, John offers a deal: you show me the tube in your throat and I'll show you the scar on my butt I got in grade six. Oh, and will you be my girlfriend?

Back at home, Carley, her parents and her sisters learn the delicate and sometimes messy art of caring for a trache patient. They are all impacted, in some way, by the harsh side effects of chemotherapy. And, always there is John – tender, supportive, funny. But Carley wants more from him. She refuses him permission to ever feel sorry for her. She insists he pinky promises that, no matter what, he will always smile.

John and Carley go skating together, cook dinners together, fall deeply in love. Ready to test her voice, Carley records her own song, *I Loved You* and posts it to YouTube. It's good, really good. The post goes viral and is picked up by local media. People all over the world tweet Carley messages of love and support.

Sophie, a no-nonsense, take no-prisoners chemotherapy nurse delivers harsh news to the "always smile" girl. White lies and singing will not cure cancer. Recovery is a matter of 'if' not 'when'.

Covering her chemo-induced baldness with a wig, Carley returns to school and is welcomed with "Cuts for Carley", the student body's way of telling the young woman that they are behind her, raising money for cancer research. And, Carley starts her blog, 'Always Smile' which supports Toronto's Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation.

It's Prom Night. Despite the trials of the past months, when Carley greets John, she looks gorgeous. He hands her a blue box that holds a silver necklace with a silver 'C' pendant. On the dance floor among the twinkling lights, they are a happy, beautiful couple.

Carley's tumor is removed. She determines that, because she loves him, she must break-up with John. Their worlds are too different now. She doesn't believe she can make him happy. He calls. He texts. But, she remains adamant.

At the hospital, a new diagnosis is offered. Carley has Clear Cell Sarcoma, the second known case on earth. But, the surgery seems to have been successful. If she passes four healthy CT scans, her cancer will be in remission.

Released from months of tension and fear, Carley breaks down sobbing in a hospital washroom and, in walks a fragile-looking Nurse Sophie. Carley's back goes up. Past exchanges with Sophie have not been good. Defenses down, Sophie explains how twisted emotions of fear and guilt can wear on cancer patients. She knows first-hand; her father has just died from the disease. Mascara running, the women share a moment of intimacy, honesty.

At one of her regular CT scans, Dr. Klein introduces Carley to a hospital donor who's also a senior official with the National Hockey League. He is there to invite Carley to sing the National Anthem at an upcoming game. In front of thousands of people and a televised audience, Carley hits it out of the park but she misses John.

Clearly, he misses her, too, and has plotted with Carley's parents to make his case for their relationship. One evening, the doorbell rings. There stands John – with his entire Greek family bearing a traditional Greek dinner. It's a lovely evening and, in front of both families, the couple is reunited.

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She remains an inspiration. The Allison family has established Carley's Angels, a foundation dedicated to helping sick children and their families manage complicated and costly healthcare issues.