

## **SAVING PRIVATE ROBINSON**

Robinson Bonilla, age 13 is moving from Medford, Long Island to Naples Florida, and himself, along with best friends Josh Wein (14) and Mike D'Urso (13) are not happy about this.

### **INT. JOSH'S ROOM, THE MORNING OF ROBINSON'S DEPARTURE, AUGUST 2005**

The alarm sounds and a tired down-beat Josh extends a lifeless hand, hitting the clock and ending the radio playing a 2000 hit song. He stays in bed, but his eyes are half open. He won't fall back asleep because the thought of his best friend moving soon is still churning around in his stomach, and now theres no more time left. Robinson is set to leave in one hour.

He pulls himself from his bed and opens his blinds. The windows reveal dark and thick clouds hovering over the town. The sight is the complete opposite of what Josh needs - a pick me up.

Josh's cell phone begins to ring. He stares at it for a moment and then goes to answer it.

**JOSH**

Hello?

**MIKE (V.O.)**

Hey Josh, it's Mike. Did Robinson leave yet?

**JOSH**

No, he leaves in about an hour.

**MIKE (V.O.)**

Alright, I'll be over there shortly.

**JOSH**

Alright, I'll see ya then.

Josh and Mike exchange good byes, and Josh hangs up the phone slowly. He throws on a t-shirt, socks and a pair of jeans. As he fixes his belt he looks through his window again, the clouds seem darker, ready to drop rain any minute.

### **EXT. OAK STREET, MORNING**

Josh walks down his home street on his way to Robinson's house, who is just a few houses down. His hair is styled but his posture is hunched and his hands hang from his pockets. He stares at the ground as he continues his walk.

**EXT. ROBINSON'S DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE, MORNING**

Josh walks to the middle of Robinson's driveway entrance before he stops and actually looks in it's direction. The driveway is long, and Josh has walked up and down it for the past 9 years. He takes a deep breath and begins to walk down it when a car pulls up on the road. From the passenger side, Mike steps out and aligns himself with Josh. The two exchange looks, before walking up the driveway together. The car pulls away in the background, and a nearby puddle is struck by a rain drop.

**EXT. ROBINSON'S HOUSE, MORNING**

Josh and Mike come across the Bonilla's car, a few suitcases are up against the car, and Robinson's backpack is in the mess. The rest of their luggage has already been taken away. Robinson steps out of the house.

Robinson is happy to see his friends on his final day, but can't find a set of good words to use. He still speaks with a smile.

**ROBINSON**

Hey guys.

**MIKE**

Ahh... Look who it is

**JOSH**

If it aint the south heading  
Robinson Bonilla

The trio has a short laugh. There is a bit of awkwardness for the close friends, as the three wish what was coming up, wasn't.

**JOSH (CONT'D)**

So are ya a little excited for  
living in a new home?

**ROBINSON**

Well, I liked Medford more than I  
liked Queens when I was younger,  
but that's cause I didn't meet  
friends as tight as you guys.

The trio smiles again, and Mike goes into a joke.

**MIKE**

Yep, ahh.  
*(Mike lets out the sound of a cold  
refreshing drink that just hits the spot)*  
They don't get much better than  
me...

Rob laughs.

**ROBINSON**

What about Josh?

**MIKE**

You can buy people like him off  
Ebay, I'm the original over here...

The trio laughs again, trying to make the best of the worst situation. Suddenly Robinson's Mom comes out from the door and she smiles at the sight of Josh and Mike. She speaks with a more Spanish accented dialect.

**ROBINSON'S MOM**

Ahhh... Josh and Mike, it makes me  
feel good inside to see you guys  
visiting for the last time.

The words sound awkward, but Josh and Mike know that she means well, and is happy that her son developed friends that care a lot about him. She continues, but calls Robinson Junior, a name that his family calls him, but her accent warps the word slightly.

**ROBINSON'S MOM (CONT'D)**

You boys are going to miss june-yah  
a lot aren't you?

While it's true, Josh and Mike try to be strong about it.

**JOSH**

Yeah, we'll miss him and all you  
guys, but ya know... we're men.  
Life just keeps going on ya know...

Robinson's mom can see through Josh's play of words, and smiles.

**ROBINSON'S MOM**

I see... I see  
*(She turns to Robinson in a hushed voice)*  
We're going to be leaving very  
shortly, so make sure you've got  
everything.

**ROBINSON**

Alright mom.

Robinson's Mom taps him on the shoulder and turns to Mike and Josh once more. She hugs them and says goodbye. She walks back into the house, and the trio look at each other again.

Robinson realizes that time is short, and he knows Mike and Josh are also very aware. He speaks with a fake smile, and the rain is starting to pick up in the background.

**ROBINSON**

I guess it's time.

**EXT. ROBINSON'S DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE, MORNING**

It is now raining fully. Josh and Mike stand by the Bonilla Mailbox and watch as the family car slowly begins to pull out of the driveway. Trying to be strong, Josh and Mike hold in their emotions and try to keep a straight face as the car reaches the driveway's end.

The duo reflects on their past with Robinson, and are still struck by the fact he's truly leaving at this moment. However, the car door opens, and Robinson steps out.

He stares at Mike, and then Josh, who has been his neighbor for the past 9 years. They don't say a word, but they step forward and hug the other one strong, as a brother would to another brother. They release, and Mike hugs Robinson as well.

Josh and Mike are still getting hit by the unforgiving rain, but watch as Robinson climbs back into the car. They wave to Robinson's Dad, Mom and sister from outside.

The car pulls out into the street, adjusts the wheel, and slowly accelerates away. Josh and Mike step into the middle of the street and watch as their friend drives away.

Without any cemented plan to re-unite, Josh and Mike just keep staring out as the car between them in the distance keeps getting smaller and farther away.

In Josh's mind, birthday parties, school bus rides, snow storms, baseball games and alike play out in his mind when he was with Robinson. He is still emotionless outside as he finds his only comfort in these thoughts.

The car is now out of sight, and Josh falls back to reality. Mike begins walking in the street headed towards Josh's house. Josh shrugs, and follows, face looking down, his posture hunched and his hands hanging from his pockets. The rain is still unforgiving.

**THE END**