

アレックスの愛

ALEX FOREVER

by Yoshiyuki Masaki

Characters

ALEX-suffering from leukemia (A)
JOHN-a boxer and Alex's brother (J)
CHRIS-John's sweetheart (C)
ANNOUNCER (AR)
JOE FRAZIER-boxing champion (JF)
REPRESENTATIVE (R)
FATHER (F)
MOTHER (M)
YUKI-Alex's sister (Y)
NARRATOR (N)

SCENE 1

John is a boxer. He is the oldest brother of a loving family. He has a brother, Alex, who is seven years old and suffering from leukemia. He also has a sister who, unlike John, is a literary type and fond of reading poetry and stories. His parents, as far as status is concerned, are ordinary people. But as far as love for and faith in their children are concerned they are extraordinary and have no equals. John has tried three times to win the championship, but in vain. He is thinking of quitting boxing.

(Chris enters)

JOHN: Hi, Chris.

CHRIS: Hi, Johnny. How's everything going?

J: Chris, I'm going to quit.

C: Quit what?

J: Boxing.

C: What?

J: I don't like it. I don't have the guts to face this humility. I've tried three times and failed three times.

C: Why don't you try a fourth time?

J: Do you want me to make a fool of myself? I know I can't win. I know my limits. I know how people think of me. I'm a coward, a laughing stock.

C: Johnny, you have changed. Are you afraid of failure? What do you lose when you fail? Nothing.

J: Nothing? I lose everything. My fame, my friends, and probably you.

C: Come on, Johnny. You lose nothing. I'll always be with you. Fame? What's the good of that? Life is still wonderful without fame. Fame is just a creation of your mind, a fantasy, an illusion. Friends? You've got one. Those who leave you when you have no title are no friends. So why care? You have to fight for your parents, for Alex and Yuki, and for me.

J: No, Chris, I'm sorry.

C: You will. I know it. Look at Alex. In spite of his illness, he never gives up. Even after he was told he has leukemia, he never despaired. He tries to do the best he can during the short period of time he has left. He knows he has only three months left to enjoy this wonderful life that God has given him, but he is trying to fight. Why can't you, who have much more life to live, much more power to fight and much more chance to challenge, do the same? For Heaven's sake, be brave and be a champion.

(Alex enters)

ALEX: John, can I ask a favor?

J: Sure, what is it?

A: I want to live to see you be a champion.

(John looks at Chris and hugs her warmly and then says to Alex)

J: Okay, Alex, I promise.
(He holds Alex in his arms)

SCENE 2

After hard training, John changed a lot physically and mentally, supported by the love of his family and by Chris. Today is the day when the championship match is going to take place.

ANNOUNCER: Now we're going to see the most exciting match in the history of boxing. In the blue corner, weighing 100 kilograms, from Kyushu, Japan, the challenger, Johnny the Uncrowned. (Loud applause) And in the red corner, weighing 150 kilograms, the King of Madison Square Garden, Joe Frazier. (Boos)

First Round-

(Between the first and second round)

A: Give me a J!

All: J!

A: Give me an O!

All: O!

A: Give me an H!

All: H!

A: Give me an N!

All: N!

A: Give me another N!

All: N!

A: Give me a Y!

All: Y!

A: What have you got?

All: JOHNNY!

A: What have you got?

All: JOHNNY!

A: JOHNNY IS DYNAMITE! GO, GO, JOHNNY! GO, GO,
JOHNNY!

All: JOHNNY IS DYNAMITE! GO, GO, JOHNNY! GO, GO,
JOHNNY!

12th round—A knockout!

(Everybody walks up to the ring and cheers.)

SCENE 3

Johnny has kept the champion belt for such a long time that he has been chosen as the best boxer of the year. Today a reception will be held where he will be given the Golden Trophy. All his family, Chris and many other people will come to congratulate him.

REPRESENTATIVE: We have the honour today to present the best boxer of the year with the Golden Trophy.

There has been no man in the history of boxing so courageous and strong as Johnny the Uncrowned, now Johnny the Crowned. Let's give him a big hand and hear what he has to say.

(Applause)

J: I'm honoured to have this opportunity to be present here and receive the Golden Trophy. I suppose I couldn't even have been nominated without the help of my coaches and my supporters. This Trophy is not only mine but belongs to all the people who have helped me achieve this summit.

Now, let me introduce my family, without the help of whom none of this would have been possible.

My father and mother helped me a lot when I was in trouble: Probably you can't imagine how many times I felt I should quit boxing. Every time I told them that, they didn't say much but just, "Keep going", and that was irresistible. They showed such infinite love and understanding that what few words they said meant everything.

(Applause)

My sister, Yuki, helped my parents and took care of my brother Alex. She had a great influence on my brother as well as

me. She is different from me. She loves stories and often told my brother and me about how wonderful this world is, full of fantasy and imagination.

(Applause)

I have a brother Alex. (He pauses a little, not intentionally but something keeps him from continuing) He is sick, very sick. (He can't resist bursting into tears) He has leukemia.

(Everybody who had not been paying much attention stops eating and drinking and they all look at Johnny, waiting for the next words to come)

Everybody says that I must have taken greater pains than anyone else in the world. Nothing is further from the truth. My brother, Alex, he can't sleep at night. And, yet, every morning he gets up very early and goes to the hospital to get shots which have never proved to be effective. He knows he has to face death in a couple of months, but he has never showed a sad face to anybody. My victory is nothing compared to his struggle for life. He has more courage and power to accept life than I do.

(Alex is crying)

Could I ask you here to dedicate this Golden Trophy to my brother Alex?

(Applause. Alex, also sobbing, runs to his brother, trying to reach for the warm love that has been given to him)

NARRATOR: Alex, in spite of the doctor's prediction, died three years after this, which was a miracle that love brought about. Alex is now asleep in peace in the arms of love. Alex, forever.

※This story is based on the movie *Something for Joey*