

**m&m**

by

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**FADE IN**

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

MARY (80s), frail but with kind eyes, sits at the breakfast table. She stirs her coffee absently.

Across from her, Michael (80s), her husband, watches her with a mixture of tenderness and heartbreak.

MICHAEL  
(Softly)  
Good morning, sweetheart.

Mary looks at him, her eyes clouded with confusion.

MARY  
Do I know you?

Michael's heart sinks, but he keeps his voice gentle.

MICHAEL  
It's me, Mary. It's Michael.

Mary stares at him, her expression unchanging.

Michael gets up, goes to and opens a cabinet. He takes out a bowl and sets it on the counter.

Unseen from view, Michael TEARS open a bag and pours it into the bowl. TINK-TINK-TINK as the contents fill the bowl.

Michael sifts through the contents, then turns and sits back down across from Mary.

He slowly reaches across the table and places a single GREEN M&M in her open hand.

Michael smiles.

Mary looks at the M&M, then back at Michael. She frowns.

**START FLASHBACK**

**EXT. PARK - DAY (1950)**

A sunny day. Children play on swings. A YOUNGER MARY (12), vibrant and full of energy, skips along a path. She bumps into a YOUNG MICHAEL (12), and she drops her books.

YOUNG MICHAEL  
Whoa! Sorry.

He helps her pick up her books. He's shy but charming.

YOUNG MARY  
It's okay.

YOUNG MICHAEL  
(hand extended)  
I'm Michael.

Mary, tentative, shakes his hand.

YOUNG MARY  
Mary.

Michael notices that Mary has eyes on the top of an M&M bag that stick out of his pocket. He pulls it out.

YOUNG MICHAEL  
Want some?

He offers her the candy.

YOUNG MARY  
(Smiling)  
Sure!

Michael tears off the top of the bag and pours a small pile into Mary's open palm. They're all GREEN.

Mary and Michael simultaneously give a short GASP and BLUSH.

**INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY (1950)**

Young Mary and Michael share an ice cream sundae. They laugh and talk, a spark of connection begins to form between them.

The empty M&M bag sits on the table between them.

**EXT. PARK - DAY (1950)**

Young Michael and Mary walk hand-in-hand away from a big oak tree. Carved in the bark is a heart with the initials M+M in the middle.

**FLASHBACK END**

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

Mary's eyes are no longer clouded. A flicker of recognition, of warmth, crosses her face.

She looks up from the green M&M at Michael, a single tear rolls down her cheek.

MARY  
Michael.

Michael takes her hand, his eyes filled with love.

MICHAEL

Yes, sweetheart?

Mary squeezes his hand, a small smile graces her lips. The moment of clarity is fleeting, but it's there.

On the counter sits a large glass jar filled with M&Ms, but not a green one in sight.

FADE OUT