

Title: Death is Short

Logline: When an antisocial teen accidentally resurrects his dead sister for 24 hours, it's up to him and his two unlikely friends to give her the perfect final day she never had.

Introduction of key characters:

- **Ian Torres:** Ian is a 15 year old boy with short hair worn in locs. His attire is extremely casual, with him usually opting for oversized hoodies or bomber jackets in muted colors. Since losing his older sister, Ramona, at age 11, he's been extremely risk averse and emotionally closed off from his peers and family.
- **Ramona Torres:** Had Ramona not died four years prior, she would've been 17, but because her body has not aged since her death, she remains 13 years old. Her body is partially rotted, so she has pale green skin, visible bones sticking out in certain places, and a lazy eye. She wears her hair in two large pigtails and dresses in bright clothes. Ramona is confident, energetic, and fearless.
- **Imogen Jones:** Imogen is a short 16 year old wannabe-witch with olive toned skin and long, straight, dark hair. She usually dresses in all black frilly skirts and dresses with black mary janes. Despite trying to act cool and mysterious, Imogen is extremely talkative and short-tempered, which has made it difficult for her to make friends.
- **Charlie Park:** Charlie is a 15 year old boy with dark shaggy hair. His style is relatively trendy and up to date - preppy but casual. Charlie is a social butterfly, and is fairly popular among his peers, but he struggles to form close, vulnerable friendships. He is extremely optimistic, and tends to put others before himself.

An overview of your story:

Act 1:

Four years after the death of his sister, Ramona, Ian Torres attends school, successfully avoiding most of his peers, except for Charlie, Ian's neighbor and former close friend, who checks on Ian throughout the day. When Ian and Charlie walk home, they see a weird girl from school, Imogen, by Ramona's grave and discover that she's trying to resurrect Ramona with some sort of potion. Whilst trying to stop Imogen from going through with this, Ian accidentally knocks over her potion onto Ramona's grave, causing Ramona to crawl out as a zombie.

Act 2:

The teens, as well as Ramona, are shocked and go to the shed at Ian's house, where Imogen reveals that the spell she cast is only supposed to last 24 hours, meaning that Ramona will be truly dead again by the end of the day. Ramona then says that because they were the ones who brought her back, Ian, Imogen, and Charlie have to help her celebrate her (second) final day on Earth. They spend the day together hanging around amusement parks, the lake, and other fun places, until Ramona accidentally gets minimally hurt falling off of a rock,

causing Ian, who up until this point has been loosening up, to lash out at Ramona, who runs away.

Act 3:

The three teens search all over town for Ramona and have a heart to heart in the process as Ian opens up to them for the first time. After looking for hours, Ian has a flash of insight and realizes that Ramona is at the forest where she died. He meets her there and the two have a genuine conversation, where Ramona reveals that she's actually terrified to die and Ian reveals that he's always blamed himself for her death. The two siblings comfort each other and have a quiet moment of closure before Ian takes her back to the graveyard to say goodbye. A year later, Ian is now close friends with Charlie and Imogen, and the three stop by Ramona's grave for the fifth anniversary of her death.

A detailed description of your story:

Act 1:

Fifteen year old Ian Torres wakes up to his alarm in a sweaty panic from a recurring nightmare he's had for the past week or so. Today is October 3rd, the fourth anniversary of his big sister Ramona's death.

Ian goes through the day at school without talking or interacting with others. He eats lunch by himself until a tall boy with dark shaggy hair approaches him and sits by his side. The boy is Charlie, Ian's childhood friend and neighbor. The two have known each other since they were babies, but drifted apart in middle school following Ramona's death, as Ian became distant. Despite no longer being particularly close, Charlie has been making sure to not-so-subtly check in on Ian and keep him company for the past week or so, as he knows it's Ramona's death anniversary. Ian thinks that Charlie is just hanging out with him because he feels bad, so Ian mostly ignores him throughout lunch despite Charlie's attempts to start a conversation.

As the school day comes to an end, Ian heads to the bus before bumping into a girl wearing a dark hoodie, who quickly runs away. Ian is initially unphased until he sees what has fallen out of the girl's backpack - a newspaper clipping from his sister's death. Before he can ask her about it, the girl has vanished into the crowd.

On the bus ride home, Ian is once again joined by Charlie, who walks home with him. After talking to Ian with no response, Charlie yells that he's just making sure he's ok to which Ian replies that he doesn't want his pity, causing the two boys to fight until Charlie notices a strange girl sitting in the cemetery across the street. When Ian looks over, he sees the girl is standing over Ramona's grave, and seems to be doing something to it.

The boys run over to see what's going on, and find Imogen, a girl Charlie recognizes from one of his classes. She's surrounded by candles, a dusty book, and a plastic tupperware bowl filled with assorted herbs and flowers floating in water. The boys question what she's doing there, and she tries to brush them

off and yells at them to leave. Ian yells at her to leave his sister's grave alone and tries to pull her away from the grave, and the two struggle and fight for a few seconds before Ian accidentally knocks over the "potion", which spills over onto Ramona's grave. Initially, nothing happens, leaving Imogen disappointed in her faulty spell, and Ian relieved, until slowly, a decomposing zombie Ramona climbs out of her grave.

Act 2:

The four kids are now hysterically screaming and freaking out, which catches the attention of a nearby police car, prompting Ian to act fast and take Ramona, Charlie and Imogen to the shed behind his house in order to avoid Ramona being seen.

After the adrenaline of running away from the cops wears off, Ian demands that Imogen explain what's going on. Imogen reveals that for the past few months she's been trying to learn witchcraft, which no one in her life takes seriously, and planned to reanimate someone to prove that she could actually do it. She chose Ramona because she thought a smaller body would take less effort to revive. Ramona, still confused, now turns to Ian and asks him to explain what's going on, and Ian painfully explains that she's been dead for the past four years. Ramona asks how she died (her memory from the moments leading up to her death are blurry), and Ian says that she died in the forest, not going further into detail.

Ramona is initially shocked, but decides that it doesn't really matter now because she's alive again, until Imogen sheepishly reveals that the spell she cast is only supposed to last 24 hours, and that Ramona will go back to being a corpse tomorrow night. Ian and Imogen fight and Charlie tries to break it up before Ramona calls their attention, saying that it's a blessing in disguise that she gets a second chance to spend her final day the way that she wants, and that because the three teens brought her back, it's their responsibility to give her the best last day of her life.

Charlie's parents are away on a business trip, so he brings Ian, Imogen, and Ramona to stay at his house. Ian brings Ramona some of her old clothes that were stored in the attic as keepsakes. He is still uncomfortable around her and has trouble making eye contact, but she tries to lighten the mood by making a bunch of zombie puns, which does not work. Despite Ian now technically being older, Ramona is still his big sister and feels somewhat obligated to cheer him up.

The next morning, the three teens, who barely slept, wake up Ramona. Charlie makes banana pancakes, something he remembers was Ramona's favorite when he and Ian were kids, while Ramona drafts out a bucket list for the day.

The first thing on her list is to stage a fashion show in Charlie's living room, where she dresses everyone up in extravagant costumes and makes them parade through to Lady Gaga songs. The show is laughably terrible, but Ian ends up actually having fun. They continue to go down Ramona's list of random

activities, and Ian starts to loosen up and have fun with everyone else, and becomes more comfortable with Ramona.

The last thing on Ramona's list is to go on every ride at the county fair. The group runs into the problem of Ramona's decomposing appearance, but Imogen points out that it's almost Halloween, and plenty of people go to the fair in costume. Ramona forces him to go on the first roller coaster with her like when they were kids. After the first ride leaves him nauseous, Ian says he's gonna sit the rest out, so Imogen, a fellow roller coaster fanatic, joins Ramona instead. Imogen and Ramona have the time of their lives on all the rides, and the two end up discussing things like why Imogen wants to be a witch and why Ramona is so happy despite her being dead.

Ian and Charlie head to the game section to win Ramona a stuffed bunny she insisted she would die without (a joke that Ian did not enjoy). They both try the ring toss game for a good twenty minutes with no luck, causing Charlie to steal the bunny from the prize section while the carnie is turned away. They get chased down by an overzealous security guard and run away to get off his trail, and they laugh together. Later, they wait in line together to get funnel cake for Ramona, and Ian thanks Charlie for letting them stay over, prompting the two to talk about what happened to their friendship and come to a common understanding that they miss each other and aren't a burden on one another.

As they leave the fair, they walk by a small brook, where Ramona goes to hop around on the rocks. She accidentally slips and falls, and Ian is reminded of the day that Ramona died. He starts freaking out and runs over to her crying, even as she gets up and insists she's ok, to which Ian exclaims that she's not ok because she's dead and that she can't treat that like a joke because that's how she died in the first place. This causes Ramona to start to tear up and run back through the fair. The three run after her but immediately lose her in the crowd.

Act 3:

Ian, Charlie and Imogen search all throughout the fair and surrounding stores for Ramona with no luck. They only have a couple hours before the spell is supposed to wear off. Ian says that it's all his fault and Charlie and Imogen comfort him. He opens up to them about what really happened when Ramona died, saying the two were playing together in the forest by their house and Ramona tried jumping from one tree to another, but fell and suffered fatal head injuries. Ian has blamed himself for not stopping her, but Charlie and Imogen assure him that it's not his fault, and that Ramona was probably happy that he didn't get hurt. Suddenly, Ian realizes where Ramona is, and tells Imogen and Charlie to meet him back at the graveyard.

Ian bikes off to the forest by his house, and walks through before finding Ramona sitting under the tree she fell from. Ian goes to her and she tells him that she remembers what happened, and can't believe that she died because she was being stupid and wasn't thinking. She starts to cry and tells Ian that she is actually terrified to die, and that she has been trying to avoid it all day

by distracting herself with activities. Ian realizes he's been doing the same thing but in the opposite way, blocking out the people in his life and keeping to himself so that he can ignore Ramona's death. Ian tells Ramona that after she died, he felt guilty being happy, because it reminded him of spending time with her when they were little, and that today was the most fun he's had since before losing her. The siblings cry together and sit in silence for a bit in the forest as the sun sets.

They return together to the graveyard and meet Charlie and Imogen, who are waiting with leftover funnel cake. Ramona thanks everyone for giving her the best final day she could ask for, and hugs Charlie and Imogen, telling them to take care of her "little" brother for her. They say goodbye and leave in tears to give the two siblings privacy to say their final goodbyes. Ian cries saying that it's not fair and that she doesn't deserve to go so soon, and Ramona replies that a lot of things aren't fair, but they did the best with what they could, and that's enough for her. She kisses her brother on the cheek and tells him that it's going to be ok. Ian thanks Ramona for being the best big sister, and they exchange "I love you"s before finally saying goodbye.

A year passes, and Ian goes to school, this time, with Charlie and Imogen, and seems to be genuinely enjoying himself. He's still quiet and shy in classes, but he no longer shuts out the world like he did before. After school, the three visit Ramona's grave for the fifth anniversary of her death, and Charlie brings a small paper plate of funnel cake to leave with her. Charlie and Imogen leave early, but Ian stays and reads her a letter telling her about the past year. He leaves the letter next to the funnel cake and gives a bittersweet smile before following after his new friends to go hang out at the fair.