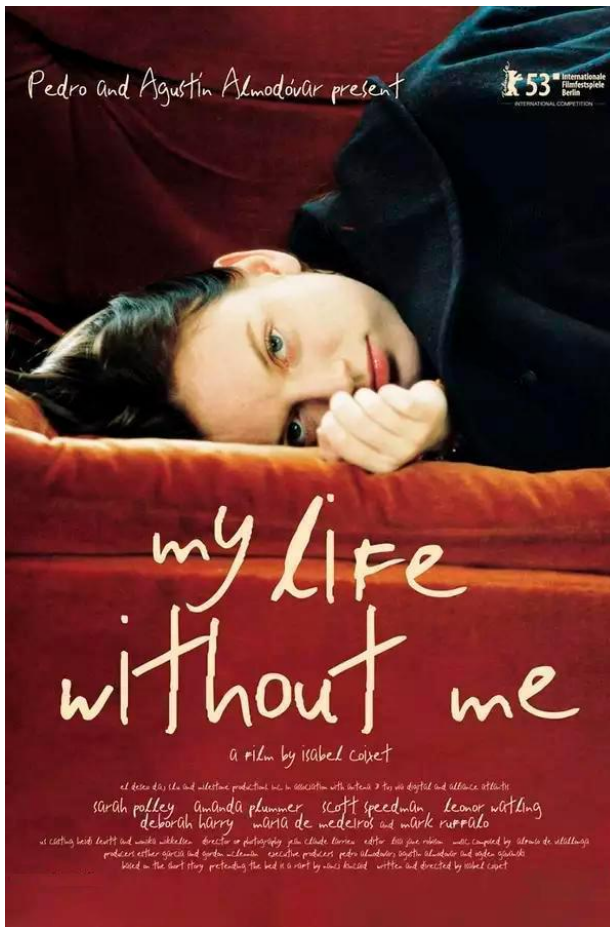*MY LIFE WITHOUT ME*

My Life Without Me is a 2003 Spanish-Canadian drama film directed by Isabel Coixet and based on the story *Pretending the Bed Is a Raft* by Nanci Kincaid.

Ann (Sarah Polley) is a 23-year-old caretaker who lives with her family in a caravan in her mother's (Deborah Harry) garden. She has two young daughters, Patsy and Penny, and is married to her first boyfriend, the caring Don (Scott Speedman).

One day, Ann collapses in pain, and everything changes when, after medical tests, she is diagnosed with terminal cancer. She decides to keep it a secret, as well as the fact that she only has two months to live, passing her weakness off as anaemia. She draws up a "bucket list" of things she wants to do for her family and herself in the time she has left.

One of the resolutions Ann carries out is to record tapes with messages for Patsy and Penny's future birthdays. In addition, she visits her father (Alfred Molina) in prison, a former alcoholic who has been incarcerated for ten years.

Having only ever been with Don and wanting to experience a different life, Ann decides to get a lover and has an affair with the lonely Lee (Mark Ruffalo). Although they soon develop a deep connection, she hides her illness from him and eventually ends the relationship. She also sets out to find a kind woman to become Don's new partner and take care of Patsy and Penny when she is gone.

My Life Without Me is a great independent production. The best thing about it is the plot, which is uncomplicated but effective in articulating the narrative. Coixet won a well-deserved Goya award for Best Adapted Screenplay. Sarah Polley and Mark Ruffalo give moving performances. In addition, the soundtrack is outstanding, with the classics "Senza Fine" and "God Only Knows" recurring throughout the film. Alongside this, Jean-Claude Larrieu's cinematography is also one of the best features of Coixet's film.

If you feel nostalgic for the 2000s and like independent cinema, you will definitely enjoy watching *My Life Without Me*. Why not borrow it from the library?