

FADE IN:

INT. FLASHBACK - WILSON HOUSEHOLD LIVING ROOM - NIGHT- 40 YEARS EARLIER

A warm glow from the fluorescent light fills the living room, where boxes are stacked in every corner, waiting to be unpacked. CHRISTINA WILSON, 5 years old, dashes excitedly into view.

CHRISTINA

(happy)

This house is great.

MILDRED and JOHN WILSON, 20s enter holding hands, their warm expressions suggesting a blissful family union.

JOHN

Christina, you should get some sleep soon.

CHRISTINA

(Running to the door)

I want to see my room.

MILDRED

Don't run up them stairs.

John picks up his yellow fireman's helmet from a brown box, placing it on his head and embracing Mildred.

JOHN

(With warmth)

This place is amazing.

MILDRED

(kisses John)

I love this house. I love you. I love Christina. I love everything.

John takes a radio from a box, turns it on, and takes Mildred's hand.

JOHN

Come on, my dear, let's dance.

MILDRED

Is there enough room among all these boxes.

JOHN
I would dance with you anywhere.
Between boxes, maybe Paris.

MILDRED
(Thrilled)
You didn't.

JOHN
(shows two plane
tickets)
I did. Next stop Paris for the
honeymoon you deserve.

MILDRED
I love you so much.

JOHN
(Looking into each
others eyes)
I love you so much too Mildred.
Always remember that.

As they dance John reaches for the dial on the old radio. The volume increases as the music reaches its climax.

FADE TO:

INT. LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTER HALL - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

The same melody but at a faster pace, plays loudly from a modern boombox, a stark contrast to John's old radio.

JULIA, 30's a Zumba instructor shouts out commands to her elderly class.

The camera pans to Mildred, 60s, who wipes sweat from her brow, struggling to keep up with class.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL - NIGHT

Mildred says good-bye to members of her class.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

Rain pours over the roof as Mildred stands outside, visibly angry and agitated. She checks her watch just before Julia opens the door.

JULIA
Has he left you stranded again?

MILDRED
(upset)
I'm so sorry Julia.

JULIA
Come on, I'll give you a ride home.

Julia and Mildred climb into the car and the wheels begin to SCREECH.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WILSON HOUSEHOLD - BEDROOM - MORNING - PRESENT DAY

The SCREECH continues, coming from outside the bedroom window. The light from the sun shines brightly into a well kept bedroom.

The alarm clock shows 9:30am. JOHN WILSON, 60's, who is elderly and overweight, steps out of bed wearing only underwear and a vest.

John yawns, thrusting his arms in the air and revealing his bloated midriff. John takes his crutch and limps towards the bedroom door.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WILSON HOUSEHOLD - BATHROOM - MORNING

John leans over the toilet in an immaculate bathroom. He wobbles a bit as he pees and makes the seat wet.

John stares into the bathroom mirror, his reflection is one of a man resigned to being old, careless in his appearance and health. John turns on the tap.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WILSON HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING

The sound of running water turns to sizzle of fried eggs. Mildred wears a very formal dress while making eggs.

Mildred slams a newspaper on the table, which John picks up and starts reading.

MILDRED

(Annoyed)

Where was you last night?

JOHN

(peers over his paper)

Did Julez bring you home?

MILDRED

Yes, no thanks to you.

Mildred serves John breakfast and snatches the newspaper he was reading from him.

JOHN

Hey, I was reading that.

Mildred stands with her hands on her hips.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(fleeting glance
while eating)

What?

MILDRED

Do I look different at all.

JOHN

(fleeting glance)

Oh, yes Lovely.

MILDRED

(Upset)

What me or your breakfast.

John slides his finished plate to the center of the table.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

I think that says it all.

JOHN

Sit down and eat your breakfast.

MILDRED

All this time, and you can't even say
thank you for my breakfast dear.

JOHN

When I was a fireman...

MILDRED

(angry)

I damn well know what you are going to say. You're a hero and you never wanted any thanks it was just a job. All I'm asking for is some simple gratitude. Is that too much?

JOHN

It's not about being too much it's a....

CRASH, a plate smashes onto the floor.

MILDRED

(Angry)

That's enough. I'm done. Look after yourself.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - ENTRANCE - MORNING

Mildred waits outside with her luggage, looking spiteful.

She slams the door shut with considerable force, leaving John stunned in his underwear.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

John watches TV in a dimly lit room with closed curtains.

START OF TIME LAPSE:

John remains in his chair throughout, moving only slightly.

The television flickers dramatically, as the light in fades.

END OF TIME LAPSE:

The room is dark, lit only by the faint glow of the television. The sound of the television fills the room.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The morning light is faint through the closed curtains. The loud doorbell interrupts the sound of the television, startling John who is wearing the same underwear he had on yesterday.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - ENTRANCE - MORNING

John stumbles to the door, still feeling sleepy. The morning sun shining through the glass door hurts his eyes.

He opens the door and sees CHRISTINA, 40s, John's daughter, wearing a suit.

CHRISTINA

(Laughing)

Bloody hell dad. You look awful.
Did mom leave you or something?

CUT TO:

INT. THE WILSON HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING

John sits silently at the table, head down. Christina paces restlessly as she speaks to Mildred on the phone.

CHRISTINA

(Upset)

Mom, please. You can't. He needs
you; I can't look after him, I have my
own life.

(Slamming phone on
table)

Damn it!

Christina is silent. John stares, anticipating an answer.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

She is seeing someone else.

JOHN

(in denial)

I'll make us some breakfast.

John fills the toaster with bread.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. THE WILSON HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

The toaster smokes as burnt toast pops out. Christina chokes and wheezes under a thin layer of smoke. The smoke detector blares loudly before suddenly going silent with a loud thump.

John, feeling embarrassed, hands Christina two slices of burnt toast.

CHRISTINA

(Unimpressed)

It's hardly a Michelin star meal.

Plus, you nearly burnt the house down.

JOHN

(Abrupt)

Shut up and eat.

Christina takes a bite and winces.

CHRISTINA

(Being careful not to
upset John)

Wow. Very nice. Thanks dad.

(pause)

So is that it now. Burnt toast until
you finally kick the bucket.

JOHN

(Huffs)

CHRISTINA

You can't live on just bread.

JOHN

Why not?

CHRISTINA

(flustered, Gets up to
exit)

I Can't do this.

JOHN

Christina, sit down.

Christina takes out her phone.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

CHRISTINA
I'm ordering you some breakfast.

JOHN
What, on your phone?

CHRISTINA
Yes, on my phone.

JOHN
(huffs)

CUT TO:

INT. FRED'S APARTMENT - MORNING

FRED, in his 70s, a neat and attractive man, comforts Mildred on a stylish sofa under a very abstract painting of various colored paint splashes.

MILDRED
(upset)
I don't think I can do this.

FRED
(consoling)
The cats out of the bag now.

MILDRED
I know, but Christina sounded...

FRED
Christina will come round. We can invite her over for dinner one night.

MILDRED
I'm sure you're right.
(angry)
That bloody man. I have tried for so long to make him happy but...

FRED
(kisses Mildred)
And now it's your turn.

MILDRED
(stands up)

I'm going to go for a shower.

FRED

There is a spare towel on the rack.

Mildred leaves, her walk showing less confidence than when she departed from her husband this morning.

FADE TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - ENTRANCE - MORNING

John answers the doorbell and sees a delivery person with a helmet and a bag.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

John settles into his chair and takes the lid off the coffee, revealing the smooth foam and brown sprinkles.

JOHN

(Annoyed)

I would have preferred a cup of tea.

John unwraps a croissant sandwich with egg, bacon, and avocado, and removes the top to reveal the avocado.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(Picking up the
avocado and looking
at it)

What is that?

John, repulsed by the sandwich, puts it aside and sees a picture of him and Mildred when they were younger.

John experiences chest pain while picking up a picture, but recovers and places it gently on the table.

John turns on the TV and debates eating the sandwich

JOHN (CONT'D)

(Angry)

Bloody Christina.

John snatches the sandwich and bites into it. He Savors it as he chews, judging the sandwich with every bite.

Suddenly John goes into hyperventilation. His face goes red, and he starts to sweat profusely.

John dials 999 on his phone before he keels over, falling off his chair. He lies there motionless.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL BAY - AFTERNOON

John's eyes slowly open. He views Christina in a haze.

CHRISTINA
(overwhelmed)
Hello Dad.

John observes the bleak and impersonal hospital environment.

There are many patients in a cramped space; most seem too sick to leave their beds.

JOHN
(Confused)
What happened?

CHRISTINA
You had a small heart attack.

John sits up slightly, tense.

JOHN
How is your mother?

CHRISTINA
She is fine. She just worried that she had put too much pressure on you by leaving so suddenly.

JOHN
(worried)
Am I going to be okay?

CHRISTINA
You don't need surgery. Just some meds.

John sits up properly as if relieved.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

How was your sandwich?

JOHN

What was that green stuff on it?

CHRISTINA

Avocado.

JOHN

It was different.

FADE TO:

INT. FLASHBACK - WILSON HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - 40 YEARS EARLIER

The living room is partly decorated. John and Mildred are arguing strongly.

MILDRED

(Upset)

Please think about it.

JOHN

I'm sorry, Mildred. The captain's job has been a dream of mine ever since I was a boy.

MILDRED

I know, but we barely see you as it is.

JOHN

Mildred, please.

MILDRED

Fine. I'll go to Paris without you.

JOHN

I promise you, We will make up for lost time later.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL BAY - AFTERNOON - PRESENT DAY

A DOCTOR, stands over John's hospital bed.

DOCTOR

(reassuring)
Even the slightest lifestyle changes
can make a big difference to your
overall physical and mental health.
Okay?

John nods. Mildred, feeling guilty, approaches John's
hospital bed after the doctor exits.

JOHN
(caught unaware)
Hi Mildred.

MILDRED
(apologetic)
I'm so sorry for...

JOHN
(sharp)
Please don't apologize.
(Pauses, genuine)
I don't want to lose you Mildred.

MILDRED
Please don't make this harder than it
already is.

JOHN
(angry)
After all the things I have done for
you. For us.

MILDRED
(angry)
What, like the neglect. Being busy
all the time. Having no time for your
wife or daughter.

JOHN
I had to work, for the family.

MILDRED
But after you retire, things gradually
become unbearable.

John is speechless.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

I'm sorry John. I truly am.
(Turns to walk away
and stops)
Please remember why I fell in love with
you. Try and find that John again.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL BAY - MORNING

John stands proudly in a nice suit when Christina arrives.

CHRISTINA
(amazed)
Wow dad. You look great.

JOHN
Thank you.

CHRISTINA
Let's get you home.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING

John enters the kitchen and is surprised to see a neatly arranged breakfast of avocado, croissant, eggs, and bacon, along with a note from Christina wishing him good luck.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING

The pan sizzles with bacon.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

An egg is cracked into a pan.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING

John cuts the avocado and reaches the pit. He works hard to cut around it.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

John settles into his seat and tries a piece of his freshly made sandwich. He grins.