

IN THAT PLACE FOR US

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1. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT [BLACK & WHITE SEQUENCE]

Through the glass of the large window, a metropolis stretches in all directions. Skyscrapers mark the horizon, gleaming lights adorn the building facades, and hovering vehicles traverse the skies. The moonlight casts the silhouette of an elderly man sleeping in a chair by the window.

MAXWELL (90) wears a long hospital gown. He coughs abruptly and gets up with difficulty. He walks slowly around the white room, where there's a spacious bed with crumpled sheets, a thin pillow, vital sign monitoring machines, and several medication bottles on the nightstand.

On the wall, a digital projection.

It reads: *04/28/2081 - 00:00. 65°C Exterior - 20°C Interior.*

The elderly man enters the bathroom of his room.

2. INT. BATHROOM. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The light automatically turns on. It completely illuminates the small room. The elderly man approaches the sink and brings his hands to his face. Upon seeing his reflection, he trembles in fear.

He takes a few steps back, moving away from the mirror, and stumbles. He falls to the floor and sits down, gazing at his trembling hands. A sudden alarm blares with discordant sounds.

MARY (50) enters the bathroom and assists the elderly man in getting up. She wears a small white device on her temple, activates it, and emits flashes of light. Mary helps Maxwell to his feet, and they both exit the bathroom.

3. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mary assists the elderly man in lying down on the bed. With gentleness, she adjusts his head on the pillow. She glances at the digital projection on the wall and smiles. Mary takes the man's hand tenderly.

MARY

Happy ninth life cycle, dad.

She moves to the bedside table, retrieves a medication bottle, and opens it. She takes out a pill and offers it to the elderly man. He declines with a nod of his head. Mary sets the medication aside and proceeds to connect an intravenous line to the man's arm. Maxwell closes his eyes and drifts off to sleep. Mary sits in the chair beside the bed, takes the man's hand, and caresses it.

4. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The elderly man awakens and finds the woman asleep at the foot of the bed. Maxwell screams.

MAXWELL

Who are you?!... LET ME GO!

Mary wakes up. The elderly man kicks and strikes the woman's hand. She holds onto his legs while trying to calm him.

MARY

(Frightened)

No... No, dad... Stop!

She releases the man's legs, gets up, and backs away. Maxwell coughs several times and struggles to breathe. Mary presses the button on her temple. She rushes to the door and exits the room.

MARY(O.S.)

I NEED HELP!

A DOCTOR (40), wearing a snug white lab coat, rushes to where the elderly man is. Maxwell fights for breath but can't. He loses consciousness.

CUT TO:

5. EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT [COLOR SEQUENCE]

A YOUNG MAN (20s), wearing a black hoodie that conceals his face, soaked jeans, and red sneakers, zigzags down the cobblestone street. His breathing is labored. He stops and clutches his chest.

The young man drops to his knees. He struggles to catch his breath, but it gets harder with each gasp. He hears the ocean waves and attempts to stand, but ends up sitting down. Gathering his strength, he rises and walks uphill.

6. EXT. CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE SEA - DAWN

The young man stands at the edge of the cliff. He removes the hood concealing his face. His green eyes reflect the dawn's light. The young man stands on his tiptoes. Opens his arms. Lets himself fall.

7. EXT. ROCKY SEAWALL - DAY

The waves crash forcefully against the rocks. The sound of the vital signs machine is heard loudly.

CUT TO:

8. INT. A WHITE PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [B & W SEQUENCE]

Maxwell awakens, standing in a white blank place. He's wearing the same hospital gown. He walks barefoot through the featureless void, unsure of where to go. He looks around, up, down, and to the sides. In the distance, an old 90s-style gray television sits on a metal stand beside a chair. These objects slowly come into focus. He squints to make out the details.

He sits in the chair and reaches out. His silhouette reflects on the turned-off TV screen. He presses several buttons and manages to turn the device on. Static appears on the screen. Maxwell freezes, and the image stabilizes. The television signal is in color.

9. ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN [COLOR SEQUENCE]

9A. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The walls are painted in a soft, soothing color, and a large window allows moonlight to gently illuminate the room. A small desk sits against one wall, cluttered with books, papers, and a laptop. Shelves are filled with more books and personal mementos. A soft, cozy rug covers the floor, providing a comfortable spot.

The young man (20) sits at the bed. He cries. He holds his black hoodie with a hood in his hands. ALEX (25) approaches the young man and squats down. He takes a tissue from his pocket and hands it over. The young man touches his face and feels his tears. He accepts the tissue and wipes his tears away.

YOUNG MAN

Thank you...

Alex smiles and communicates in sign language.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

You're not alone.

The television image distorts.

10. INT. A WHITE PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [B & W SEQUENCE]

Static fills the television screen. Tears stream down Maxwell's face as he touches it. He feels the trembling of his hands.

MARY(V.O.)

Dad?!... DAD!

The elderly man slowly raises his head to gaze upwards.

11. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT [BLACK & WHITE SEQUENCE]

Maxwell opens his eyes, breathing heavily through the transparent oxygen mask. He struggles to move his frail body, managing only to lift a trembling hand to his temple. A small white device on the left side of his head emits a pulsating light, synchronized with his heartbeat.

Mary rises from her chair upon seeing her father awake. She takes his hand and presses a button on the device at Maxwell's temple. He gazes at her, offering a faint smile. He closes his eyes and slips back into unconsciousness.

FADE TO WHITE:

12. INT. A WHITE PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [B & W SEQUENCE]

Maxwell searches for the television. He walks over and attempts to turn it on. He press all the buttons simultaneously. The device emits flashes, but it doesn't come to life. The elderly man strikes the top of the television forcefully. The device flickers to life, but it displays only static. Maxwell places his hand on the screen. The image stabilizes.

13. ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN [COLOR SEQUENCE]

13A. CITY PARK - DAY

Colorful flowers in full bloom create a vivid mosaic of reds, yellows, and blues. The distant sound of children's laughter mixes with the chirping of birds. Families with picnic baskets gather on well-kept lawns, and a sense of tranquility permeates the air.

The young man and Alex are sit face to face. Alex teaches the alphabet in sign language.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

A...B...C...D...E...F...G...H...

The young man mimics what he sees with his hands. He makes a mistake. Alex laughs. The young man tries again.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

Look, it's done like this.

Alex gets closer to the young man.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

A-L-E-X. My name is Alex.

Alex points to the young man. The young man, very slowly, spells with his hands.

YOUNG MAN (ASL - SUBTITLED)
M-A-X-W-E-L-L.

Alex gives a thumbs-up in approval while smiling. YOUNG MAXWELL kiss Alex.

14. INT. A WHITE PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [COLOR SEQUENCE]

Maxwell sits in front of the television. He looks his hands. He signs.

MAXWELL (ASL - SUBTITLED)
My... name... is... Maxwell...

He smiles. He resembles as a child. He looks back to the television screen. It goes blank. The old man attempts to turn on the device. He searches for the power cable, but there isn't one. An unintelligible voice interrupts him. Maxwell grips his left arm tightly. The thumping of his heart grows louder with each beat. He struggles to breathe.

The white space turns red. The television flickers.

15. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT [BLACK & WHITE SEQUENCE]

Maxwell is unconscious. The doctor uses a small-screened device to scan the elderly man's body. Maxwell's vital signs decline, and a faint line rises weakly.

Mary enters the room. She caresses her father's face. The doctor looks at the woman.

DOCTOR
The time has come. Has the cloud transfer started?

MARY
Yes...

She holds her father's hand.

16. INT. A RED PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [COLOR SEQUENCE]

The TV flickers. Maxwell approaches calmly. He sits in the chair and places his hand on the screen. He sees a reflection of a person. He looks around but finds himself alone. The TV image stabilizes.

MAXWELL'S POINT OF VIEW WATCHING THE TV.

17. ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN [COLOR SEQUENCE]

17A. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Alex looks weak and pale. He lies on the hospital bed. The room has worn-out walls. The floor tiles are stained. A bottle of antiviral pills on the bedside. Dim light filters through the curtains.

Maxwell(20) slowly knocks on the door of the room. He approaches the bed. Maxwell signs to Alex.

MAXWELL (ASL - SUBTITLED)
I don't know if I can see you like
this...

Alex, with a faint smile, looks at Maxwell.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)
We will always have a place for us.

Alex points to his head. Tears roll down his cheeks. Maxwell turns around and walks to the door. He stops before turning the doorknob.

MAXWELL
I love you.

Maxwell exits the room.

18. INT. A RED PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [COLOR SEQUENCE]

Maxwell(80), furious, grabs the chair and smashes the television. The device shatters into several pieces. The old man cries out with force, almost choking. He falls to his knees, clutching his chest. His breathing becomes erratic as he gasps for air.

19. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT [BLACK & WHITE SEQUENCE]

The sound of the vital signs machine blares like an alarm. The light on the device at Maxwell's temple blinks rapidly.

20. INT. A RED PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [COLOR SEQUENCE]

Maxwell cries inconsolably. He pounds his fists against the floor. The figure of a man, dressed in a black hoodie that conceals his face, appears behind Maxwell.

THE LIGHTING IN THE SPACE CHANGES TO WHITE.

21. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT [BLACK & WHITE SEQUENCE]

Mary gently holds her father's hand. The light from Maxwell's temple device stops.

22. INT. A WHITE PLACE - INSIDE MAXWELL'S MIND [COLOR SEQUENCE]

The hooded figure approaches Maxwell. The elderly man sits up.

MAXWELL

Who are you?...

Alex removes his hood. Maxwell looks directly into his eyes. He looks surprise. Alex approaches. Maxwell lowers his head. Alex takes Maxwell's hands, which tremble. Alex signs to him.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

Don't blame yourself anymore.

MAXWELL (ASL - SUBTITLED)

If I had your strength...

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

Max, it's okay to be afraid.

MAXWELL (ASL - SUBTITLED)

But... Now I've lost you forever.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

Unspoken words, wrong actions, we all carry that burden. But time is not just a river that sweeps us away... It's also a bridge that connects us.

MAXWELL (ASL - SUBTITLED)

Can I cross to where you are?

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

Are you still afraid?

Maxwell says no with his head. Alex smiles at him, pointing to his head.

ALEX (ASL - SUBTITLED)

In that place for us, where forgiveness is a silent echo.

Maxwell takes Alex's hand. Young Maxwell appears. They two walk until they disappear on the horizon.

FADE TO WHITE:

23. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT [BLACK & WHITE SEQUENCE]

Mary sits in the chair in Maxwell's room, next to his empty bed. The sheets are neatly spread, the devices turned off. The moonlight casts her silhouette.

She holds Maxwell's white device. She presses the button on her temple and connects it to her father's. Both devices emit a flickering light.

Mary closes her eyes. Tears start to well up from her closed eyes. She smiles.

24. SCREEN FADES TO BLACK.

MARY (V.O.)
I love you, Dad.