

The Red Lamp

Written by Craig Singleton

Based on the Reddit story of the same name

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FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

REBECCA MORRISON kneels on the ground. She has long BLONDE hair and light BLUE eyes. She has a slightly WORRIED expression.

ETHAN (V.O)

To me she was perfect. Everything around me was just fuzzy, but I could see her clearly.

Rebecca smiles and has a deep sigh of relief.

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)

I'm not religious. I don't believe in God or a higher power. I didn't believe in angels before either, but then I saw her. That's why what I'm about to tell you is so hard to take.

INT/EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

ETHAN BLACK, an athletic eighteen year old sits alone at the kitchen table. He holds a bowl of cereal that he eats from.

ETHAN (V.O)

I'm an only child. I always wanted a brother or sister to grow up with, but my parents always said one was enough. I couldn't blame them. I was hard work at times so imagine two of me.

ETHAN finishes his breakfast. He puts the bowl in the sink. He grabs his backpack which laid on the table. He walks towards the front door.

ETHAN
Mom I'm gonna go. I'll see you later.

ETHAN'S MOTHER
Bye. Be safe.

ETHAN
I will.

He opens the door, leaves the HOUSE. ETHAN walks away from his home towards the driveway. He takes his car keys from his pocket. He opens the door, gets into the car.

He drives a typical everyday car, a bit old and run down by it's appearance but it's reliable.

ETHAN (V.O)
My dad drives trucks for a living.
Long hours, early get ups. My mom
works part time at the store. They
worked hard, did their best.

He starts up the ignition and drives away.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

ETHAN walks up along the path.

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)
I thought it was just gonna be a
normal day, but it was day my life
changed forever.

His friend CALLUM, a tall scrawny boy with curly BROWN hair waits for him.

ETHAN
Hey man.

CALLUM
Good morning.

They walk closer to the school building.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
Did you see it?

ETHAN
No I missed it.

CALLUM
Aww it was soo...

JACOB, a big, strong boy approaches ETHAN aggressively.

JACOB
(interrupting)
Hey Ethan.

ETHAN
(hesitantly turning to Jacob)
What's up Jay?

JACOB
Not much just patiently waiting for
an apology.

ETHAN
I thought we already sorted it out on
the field. Forget about it.

JACOB
No coach just made sure I didn't
bounce your head off the grass.

ETHAN
We're on the same team. I train hard.
You're actin like I hurt you on
purpose.

JACOB
You thought you hurt me? No, but you
embarrassed me that's all. I have to
work harder than everybody else to
get on that team.

JACOB gets more agitated. He puts his hands towards ETHAN.

ETHAN
Come on man. Just trying to get to
class. What happens on the field
stays on the field.

JACOB
Whatever. You know you pretty much
walked onto the team playing kiss
ass.

ETHAN
Come on, really?

CALLUM
He can't help it if he's just better
than you.

JACOB
(turning to Callum with wide eyes)
You say something?

CALLUM
No.. just clearing my throat.

ETHAN
Okay you know what, I'm sorry Jay
okay. You happy? Calm down. Next time
you get the ball maybe you should try
moving a little more that's all.

JACOB
Try moving from this.

JACOB loads up his fist, swings his hips and clocks ETHAN
right on the TEMPLE. ETHAN falls onto the ground.

CALLUM
(shocked)
What the hell?!

Some students gather around the boys. ETHAN lies DAZED on
his back. CALLUM kneels by him with his hands FRANTICALLY
pats on ETHAN'S chest.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
Ethan! Ethan! Come back to me
brother.

He gently SLAPS Ethan across the cheek. REBECCA rushes over,
kneels down.

REBECCA
(talking to Callum)
I'm sorry but your friend may be
concussed so you're not helping.

CALLUM
Sorry. Sorry Ethan!

CALLUM backs away.

REBECCA
I took a first aid course... kind of.

A teacher sees the commotion, walks over.

TEACHER
What happened?

JACOB tries his best to look innocent.

JACOB
Look like he fell to me.

TEACHER
You sure? Won't be a problem to check
the cameras Mr Taylor.

REBECCA
Ethan?

ETHAN slowly lifts himself up. REBECCA smiles, gives a deep
sigh of relief.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Easy. Don't move too quick. I don't
know if you hit your head on the way
down.

REBECCA and CALLUM help ETHAN to his feet.

TEACHER
You okay Ethan?

ETHAN
(stroking the back of his head)
I'm fine, I slipped.

TEACHER
(looking at Jacob suspiciously)
You sure?

JACOB looks away.

ETHAN
Yeah. Thanks.

TEACHER
(looking at Ethan)
Go and see Miss Summers before class.
Make sure your head's okay.

The TEACHER walks away. JACOB walks in a different
direction.

CALLUM
(speaking quietly)
What a dick.

REBECCA
You sure you're okay?

ETHAN (V.O)
I thought love at first sight only
happens in the movies, but I felt it.
(MORE)

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)
As soon as I looked into those blue
eyes I knew.

ETHAN strokes his head then puts his hand down.

ETHAN
I've took worse before.

CALLUM
He really has. I'm surprised he's not
brain dead by now.

ETHAN
Thanks for helping me.

REBECCA
Not a problem. You look familiar. I
think we're in the same English
class.

ETHAN
Yeah I think so.

REBECCA
See you around. Here.

She hands ETHAN a tissue. He has a glow on his face as she
walks away.

CALLUM
Dude, he nearly knocked you into next
week.

ETHAN
Lucky punch. Come on.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - LATER

ETHAN sits looking forward at the teacher deliver his
lesson. He suddenly looks around the full classroom and
notices REBECCA. His eyes light up. The lesson ends.

Everybody grabs their things. REBECCA stands, HOLDS HANDS
with the boy who sat next to her. ETHAN watches as they
leave, disappointed.

INT. LIBRARY - LUNCHTIME

It's the next day. ETHAN sits next to CALLUM. Their books
are spread out on the table. CALLUM writes onto a sheet of
paper. ETHAN lost in thought, almost daydreaming.

CALLUM
If I keep this shit up I'll get
another B.

He smiles enthusiastically, notices ETHAN is in a trance.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
It's not too late to get you checked
out at the hospital you know.

ETHAN snaps out of it.

ETHAN
Can't concentrate.

CALLUM
First aid girl? Didn't you say she's
with someone?

ETHAN
Yeah.

CALLUM
Could have been her brother.

ETHAN
Yeah right.

CALLUM
Forget about her. There's plenty out
there at sea.

ETHAN
Not like her. She's special.

CALLUM
You know that from her asking if
you're okay and you said yes?

ETHAN
I can't really explain it. I've never
seen her before, but I feel like I
know her. I have a feeling she's the
person I wanna spend my life with. I
know she is, you know?

CALLUM
No I don't know. I'm eighteen, built
like a stick and scared to talk with
anybody who has 'xx' chromosomes
including, especially my own mother.

ETHAN
Your dad feels the same.

CALLUM
I know it's tragic.

ETHAN
Anyway your time will come. The right girl will come right when you least expect it.

CALLUM
Thanks man. I mean, I'm funny. That's a great trait.

ETHAN
Yeah it is. Alright what's your best joke?

CALLUM
Erm.. oh. There's these two balloons, one's the dad, one's the son. The son grabs a pin and sticks it in his dad. The dad turns around and says "You've let me down son".

CALLUM laughs almost proud of himself. ETHAN smiles to be polite.

ETHAN
I don't know what's worse, the joke or the fact that you laughed. You laughed at your own joke, that's unforgivable.

CALLUM
Okay well how about...

GIRL
(interrupting)
Do you two girls mind? People are trying to study here.

ETHAN and CALLUM look around the library to see it's completely EMPTY. A young girl sits judgmentally at a table opposite the boys. She wears dark clothes, dark hair with a nose ring.

ETHAN
CALLUM:
(overlapping)
(simultaneously)
Sorry.

GIRL
I was hoping you'd both shut up but you kept on going. Enough is enough.

CALLUM
We'll keep it down.

ETHAN
Did you hear his joke though?

GIRL
Yeah it was almost as tragic as his
parent's marriage.

CALLUM
(offended)
Whoa, how rude.

GIRL
Be quiet now.

She goes back to reading her book. ETHAN and CALLUM continue
to talk QUIETLY.

ETHAN
I don't think it'll last between
Rebecca and that guy. I need to know
more about her and what she sees in
him.

CALLUM
What's your plan follow them to see
what they talk about and stuff?

ETHAN
No we couldn't do that, could we?

ETHAN and CALLUM look at each other with more ATTENTION.

CALLUM
Is that you asking my permission for
you to stalk them?

ETHAN
No. That would be weird. Will you do
it?

CALLUM
What? No, no. I'll get caught.

ETHAN
Don't get caught. Think about it.

CALLUM
Okay, no.

ETHAN
I'll do your history paper.

CALLUM
You're even dumber than I am. It
makes no sense for me to agree to
that.

ETHAN
What if I said, please?

ETHAN looks at his phone, realises the time.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
(standing up)
I gotta go.

CALLUM
And leave me here alone... with her.
She's still staring isn't she?

The GIRL smiles in annoyance at CALLUM. ETHAN leaves. She
continues to STARE. CALLUM looks back at her, scared.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
I'm gonna go too.

GIRL
Hallelujah.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

MUSIC CUE: "PRETTY LITTLE BABY" by CONNIE FRANCIS

REBECCA and her boyfriend walk with each other. She has
smile on her face as they pass by a large bush.

CALLUM, wears cheap sunglasses, a dark hat and dark clothing
peeps his face out. He looks at the direction of REBECCA.

CUT TO:

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - MID MORNING

ETHAN sits in class. He looks over at REBECCA as she gives
her boyfriend a little smile.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - NOON

A busy room full of students who eat their lunch. REBECCA
sits with a friend. They talk and laugh. CALLUM still in his
glasses and dark clothing walks past VERY SLOWLY.

He tries to listen to their conversation. He almost bumps into someone who carries a food tray as he doesn't look to what's ahead.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY -
AFTERNOON

REBECCA walks alone to her next class. CALLUM walks far behind. She suspects that someone is near. She suddenly STOPS, looks back. Nobody is there. She carries on.

CALLUM hides behind a wall of lockers. He breathes HEAVILY. RELIEVED he wasn't seen.

END MUSIC CUE

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

ETHAN walks over to his front door. He opens it, CALLUM stands. He's ditched the sunglasses and hat which has FLATTENED his hair.

CALLUM
Well I'm never doing that again.. I
hope.

CALLUM steps into the house.

ETHAN
(walking to the kitchen)
I owe you man. Drink?

CALLUM
Please.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - LATER

ETHAN and CALLUM sit at the table. They both have a glass of water half full on the table.

ETHAN
So, anything?

CALLUM
(taking a quick sip of his drink)
Oh yeah. Not that much really. She
likes to laugh.

ETHAN
So he's funny?
(unenthusiastically)
Great.

CALLUM
I'd say he's more stupid than funny.
She was laughing with her friend as
well so maybe it's not him. I
couldn't really make out what they
were saying on count of fearing my
life.

ETHAN
What do you mean?

CALLUM
You know how you said don't get
caught...

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

It's YESTERDAY. The school day is over. CALLUM hides in the
same bush as the one before. REBECCA and her boyfriend walk
by.

CALLUM peeps his head out, but at the wrong time. He gives
REBECCA a fright.

REBECCA
Oh my god.

She looks up.

REBECCA'S BOYFRIEND
What are you doing?!

CALLUM
(stepping out from the bush)
Hey do you where the nearest bus stop
is?

REBECCA'S BOYFRIEND
Well it's not in there is it?

REBECCA
Hey I know you. Ethan's friend who
nearly slapped him to death.

CALLUM
That's me.

ETHAN
He doin okay now?

CALLUM
Just great.

REBECCA'S BOYFRIEND
Who's Ethan?

CALLUM
Well I gotta get goin. Don't wanna miss that bus.

REBECCA'S BOYFRIEND AGGRESSIVELY stops CALLUM from walking away. He puts his hands on him.

REBECCA'S BOYFRIEND
Hey hold up.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Back at the kitchen table ETHAN attentively listens to CALLUM'S story.

CALLUM
I thought I was a goner. But, she got mad at him for being mad at me.

ETHAN
Really?

CALLUM
(excited)
She stormed off. She remembered your name by the way.

ETHAN
(putting his hand on Callum's shoulder)
Shut the front door.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Students are making their way into class to start their day. REBECCA sits on a bench DEEP in thought. ETHAN walks by, notices her.

ETHAN
Good morning.

REBECCA
(turning towards Ethan)
Oh hey.

ETHAN
Ethan.

REBECCA
I know. How's it goin?

ETHAN
Good. Sorry I didn't come over to say
thanks again.

REBECCA
No it's.. I didn't actually do
anything. It could have been worse.

ETHAN
Still it was you coming over.
(sits down)
Where's your err...

REBECCA
He's not anymore. Too many red flags.

ETHAN
Sorry it didn't work out.

REBECCA
I'm not. Hey, have you any plans for
tomorrow?

ETHAN
Tomorrow?

REBECCA
Friday.

ETHAN
No, nothing.

REBECCA
Fancy grabbin something to eat?

ETHAN
Yeah sure. What's on your mind?

REBECCA
Pizza. Dress smart though.

ETHAN
For pizza?

REBECCA
Yeah. I gotta get goin.
(standing up)
Can I see your phone a sec?

ETHAN hands his phone to REBECCA. She puts her number into his contacts. She hands the phone back to him.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Let me know what time you can make it
and I'll send you my address.

She smiles then walks away. ETHAN stands like he can't believe his luck.

ETHAN (V.O)
It felt like I won the lottery.
Couldn't wait for the night to come.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

ETHAN stands in his bedroom, looks inside his wardrobe. He's undecided of what to wear. He shakes his head then walks over to his door.

ETHAN
Mom?! Have you seen my shirt and
pants?!

ETHAN' MOTHER
Which ones?

ETHAN
The ones I wore at the thing.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - LATER

In the bathroom ETHAN looks in front of the mirror. He wears a nice long sleeved white shirt, black pants and black shoes.

ETHAN (V.O)
That thing was my grandma's funeral.
I didn't have the money to buy
anything new. I needed all I had for
the date.

He has a comb in his hand. He fixes his hair.

ETHAN
(talking to the mirror)
Okay. Don't mess this up.

EXT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - EVENING

ETHAN takes the keys out of the ignition, gets out of his car. He stands nervously.

REBECCA walks out of the front door to her house and over to ETHAN. She wears an elegant white dress. It has a red tie at the waist with a bow on it.

ETHAN

Whoa. You look stunning.

REBECCA

Thanks. Brush up well yourself.

REBECCA walks around to the passenger side of the car. ETHAN opens it for her.

INT. PIZZA PLACE - EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA sit opposite each other at a booth in the corner of the restaurant. It's a quiet night, a few tables filled around the restaurant. They've eaten around half of their meal.

ETHAN

I do like football, but never see it as something I'd do. It's just fun and haven't figured too much else out really. What about you?

REBECCA

I like money.

ETHAN

Who doesn't? Wish we had more of it.

REBECCA

That's what I wanna do. Help people keep, manage their money. It's gonna take a lot of time, work to get there but that's what I'm hoping for. Get a degree then apply for internship.

ETHAN

I'm sure you'll get there. I'm awful with money so I could be you're first client.

REBECCA

(laughs)

Okay.

ETHAN

You've got a nice laugh. I like that.

REBECCA

It helps to laugh. My dad's always cracking jokes. He misses my mom but always masks it with humour.

ETHAN

I'm sorry. What...

REBECCA

She died giving birth, to me. So I've obviously no memory of her. Just pictures. My dad had to do it all and did a great job. I mean look how well I turned out.

They laugh TOGETHER. She wipes her mouth with a napkin then pushes her plate slightly.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I'm done.

ETHAN

We could have got something better than pizza.

REBECCA

What's better than pizza? Especially Sicilian.

ETHAN

Why are we dressed like this then?

REBECCA

Because I thought it would be funny. That and we're going dancing.

ETHAN

Dancing? We can't, we're only eighteen remember.

REBECCA

Not that kind of dancing.

ETHAN:

I can't dance.

REBECCA

Well you can learn. It's gonna be fun. If you can dance you'll tick all the boxes.

ETHAN
What's the other boxes?

REBECCA
You'll see.

INT. BALLROOM - EVENING

REBECCA leads ETHAN into the main room. Couples from different ages line up.

ETHAN
I don't know if this is such a great idea.

REBECCA
It's gonna be okay. You might wanna roll up your sleeves.

ETHAN
You come here with anyone else?

REBECCA
(smiling)
Someone special.

They walk over to the other couples. A couple in their 50s notice REBECCA as they stand near.

WOMAN
Well I never thought I'd see you again. How's everything darlin?

The woman gives REBECCA a hug. ETHAN fixes his sleeves.

REBECCA
I said I'd come back once I had the right partner.

WOMAN
Can't be any worse than your father. How is he?

REBECCA
Still the same old.

ETHAN (V.O)
Rebecca's dad had a heart attack a few years back. He started taking her dancing when she was little. Was really good even won some top competitions in the state.

(MORE)

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)
She made him stop going and has
worried about him everyday since.

WOMAN
(looking at Ethan)
Hi there.

ETHAN
Hi.

REBECCA
This is Ethan. Ethan meet Melanie and
her husband Chris.

MELANIE shakes hands with ETHAN. CHRIS puts his fist out to
ETHAN, he bumps it.

MELANIE
First time dancing?

ETHAN
(nervous)
Yeah.

MELANIE
You'll be fine. No one's judging. We
were all beginners once. As long as
you've got a left foot and a right
that'll do.

Uptempo music starts to play. REBECCA turns to ETHAN, grabs
his hand. They stand in the middle of the dance floor.

REBECCA
Ready?

ETHAN
No.

REBECCA
I'll lead.

They start to dance. They start off slowly compared to the
more experienced couples around them. ETHAN becomes more and
more at ease.

He feels as if REBECCA doesn't want to embarrass him. He
gets used to the basic steps and smiles with a sparkle at
REBECCA. They enjoy the dance.

ETHAN (V.O)
It was the best date I could have
imagined.
(MORE)

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)
 She had this aura about her. She lit
 up every room. Like I said I thought
 she was an angel. Ever since then we
 were inseparable.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - LATE EVENING

MUSIC CUE: "JOHN WAYNE" by CIGARETTES AFTER SEX

In ETHAN'S dark bedroom REBECCA sits at the end of the bed.
 ETHAN leans over. They KISS EACH OTHER PASSIONATELY. They
 lie down.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

ETHAN and REBECCA walk hand in hand over to his car. He
 opens the passenger door, she gets in.

CUT TO:

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - LATER

ETHAN drives, one hand on the wheel. The other he holds
 REBECCA'S. They laugh as they talk. The windows down, they
 enjoy the wind that blows in their faces.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA sit as the movie plays. They SHARE a big
 bucket of movie enjoying the moment.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - MORNING

A small section of a lake ETHAN and Rebecca swim alone. A
 CLEAR day. The reflection sun bounces off of the water.

She puts her arms around his shoulders then gives him a
 quick kiss. He kisses her neck. They carry on swimming.

CUT TO:

INT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Another sunny day. REBECCA and ETHAN enjoy a picnic on the grass in a busy part of the park. They get their things together. She stands up, puts out her hand towards him. He takes it.

CUT TO:

EXT. ETHAN'S CAR - EVENING

ETHAN drives along a quiet road as the sun is about to set. REBECCA looks out of the window towards the sky.

END MUSIC CUE

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

ETHAN and REBECCA lie in bed under the covers. They stare into each other's eyes.

ETHAN (V.O)
She showed me how to love and how it
felt to be loved. This was the
happiest I'd ever been. I kept
pinching myself. I never wanted her
to leave me.

EXT. BEACH - LATE EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA lie on a blanket placed onto the sand. They look up at the CLEAR night sky. A few stars are visible.

REBECCA
Do you think it's really just us out
here?

ETHAN
(looking around)
I hope so.

REBECCA
I meant in the universe.

ETHAN
(relaxing)
Oh.

REBECCA

There must be more, there has to be.
Just think of how many planets,
galaxies he really created.

ETHAN

I never really thought about it.

REBECCA

Never?

ETHAN

No. You think there's little E.T's
somewhere trying make his way home?

REBECCA

Probably not like the movie ones. But
maybe there is life out there.
Wouldn't it be just nuts that Earth
is somehow the only one with living
creatures on it.

ETHAN

I hope it is, just in case.

REBECCA

In case of what?

ETHAN

The invasion. It didn't go well for
Jack Black in Mars Attacks did it?

REBECCA

I seriously doubt that would happen
in reality.

She turns towards him.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I want you to meet my dad. You free
for dinner on Sunday?

ETHAN

Sure.

REBECCA

Don't let anything I've told you
about him put you off. He's just a
hard shell.

ETHAN

I'll be there.

REBECCA

Thank you.

EXT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

ETHAN walks up to the house, NERVOUS. He takes a moment to gather himself, then knocks on the door. The door opens.

A TALL, slightly INTIMIDATING man steps out with a STERN expression on his face.

ETHAN

Mr Morrison it's great to finally meet you.

MR MORRISON

What the hell are you doing here?

REBECCA

(standing near the door)

Dad?

His seriousness fades and a laugh breaks out.

MR MORRISON

I'm kidding, I'm kidding.

(shaking Ethan's hand)

Nice to meet you kid. Call me Tom.

Nice to see my daughter with a smile on her face for once. Come on in.

They head into the house.

TOM

I thought he'd be taller.

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA sit at the table in the dining room. TOM has some music playing from a old record player.

TOM walks out from the kitchen. He carries half a chicken on a serving dish. He's made a big effort. A nice meal presented on the table.

ETHAN (V.O)

I honestly loved Rebecca's dad. He busted my balls all day but he made me feel like I was supposed to be there.

TOM
Okay who's hungry?

ETHAN
Starving.

TOM
(serving the food)
You and your parents have a good old
sit down dinner together Ethan?

ETHAN
Sometimes. My dad works at night then
sleeps during the day so we don't
really get the chance to eat
together. I mostly just cook for
myself.

TOM
(sitting down)
Oh yeah what's your speciality?

ETHAN
By that I meant just putting stuff in
the microwave.

TOM
(jokingly swipes his hand)
Yeah, yeah. Dig in.

They begin to eat their meals. REBECCA enjoys the chicken.

TOM (CONT'D)
Good?

REBECCA
It's great, what did you put in it?

TOM
That I can't tell ya.

REBECCA
Well I am surprised.

TOM
So Ethan. How's school going?

ETHAN
Yeah, pretty good thanks.

TOM
Understand you're a good football
player.

ETHAN
I'm not bad I suppose.

TOM
It could lead you somewhere someday.

ETHAN
I haven't really thought that far ahead yet.

TOM
You a Christian?

ETHAN
Not really.

TOM
(pointing at the front door with his knife)
Get out.

REBECCA puts her head in her hands. TOM laughs.

REBECCA
Ethan I'm sorry. He'll stop soon.
(looking at Tom)
Won't you?

TOM
(laughing)
I'm sorry too.

REBECCA
He wonders why no one comes around.

TOM continues to chuckle to himself.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

ETHAN and REBECCA walk towards his car.

ETHAN (V.O)
Two years went by just like that. We graduated. I didn't play football again.

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

REBECCA sits at the kitchen table with stacks of books in front of her.

ETHAN (V.O)

Becky was working hard to achieve her goals. She went to college. We didn't see as much of each other. I missed her like crazy, but I was happy for her. I knew that's what she wanted in life so I didn't wanna stand in the way of it.

INT. SPORTS STORE - MORNING

ETHAN open boxes at the front desk. He takes out some clothing.

ETHAN (V.O)

When I graduated I got good grades, but I was so lovestruck that I didn't think about my own future. I got a nine to five. I liked it. It didn't matter to me. All I needed was her. She got an internship at a great firm, making her way through the world.

INT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

ETHAN stands in an EMPTY hallway. He paces a little with a worried expression. A doctor walks out of a room further down from where ETHAN is stood. He approaches him.

ETHAN (V.O)

The... I remember it was April fifteenth because that was the same day the Titanic sank.

DOCTOR

I'm so sorry son. We did everything we could.

The DOCTOR gently puts his hand on a shocked ETHAN'S shoulder. He pauses for a brief moment then walks away.

ETHAN (V.O)

My parents went for a drive together. It was their anniversary so they wanted to go somewhere special. I don't really know what happened. Somehow lost control, head on collision. No one them made it.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

ETHAN stands in his living room. He wears the same white shirt and black pants he wore to his first date with REBECCA. He wears a black tie and black jacket to go with it.

A man in his 50s enters the room.

ETHAN (V.O)

My dad's brother came into town to help with everything really. I never met him before. Seemed like a good man so I'm not sure why he wasn't around. He helped with the funeral.

ETHAN'S UNCLE

The car's out front.

ETHAN

Yeah.

ETHAN and his UNCLE head out the house.

ETHAN (V.O)

I inherited the house. The mortgage was paid up a few year ago. Mom and dad did a will. They made sure I was taken care of. Becky obviously helped what to do with it. A twenty year old with a house and thousands overnight. It was a bad situation to be in. Somehow made things work.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

The front door opens. ETHAN and REBECCA walk in. ETHAN'S shirt is unbuttoned at the top, his tie slackened. He SLUMPS onto the couch. She sits next to him, strokes his hair.

ETHAN

(exhaling)

I still can't believe they're gone.

REBECCA

You want anything?

ETHAN

No, I'm good.

REBECCA stands, walks over the fridge. She makes herself a drink.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

There is something you can do for me.
Move in.

REBECCA

What?

She puts down her glass, walks back to the couch.

ETHAN

I know how much you worry about your
dad. I do too but it's he's only like
a ten, fifteen minute drive away.

REBECCA

I know but it's...

ETHAN

(interrupting)

Listen I love you.

REBECCA

You know I love you. I don't need to
say it.

ETHAN

You can't expect me to live here all
by myself can you? I'll burn the
house down within a month.

REBECCA

I can sleep over any time.

ETHAN

Not the same.

REBECCA

Are you sure you can live with me?
Just letting you know can be pretty
messy.

ETHAN

I'm positive that I wanna spend every
minute of every day with you. To come
home to you every night, it would be
the best. You could do your work here
with no distractions. Away from your
dad's old songs.

REBECCA

You wouldn't distract me?

ETHAN

You won't know I'm here. Have a think about it. Talk to your dad. He'll be happy for us.

REBECCA

I don't think he. As a matter of fact I think he'll beg me to stay.

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - MORNING

TOM stands in his hallway. There's two large bags by the front door.

TOM

Honey! I managed get most of your stuff together. Even your fifty pounds of make-up!

REBECCA stands in the bathroom wearing a robe. She brushes her teeth in the mirror.

REBECCA

What was that?!

TOM

No need to thank me.

She finishes up then walks over to her bedroom. She opens up her wardrobe to see MOST of her clothes are gone.

REBECCA

Dad?!

She walks down the stairs, notices the bags.

TOM

I've been doin some thinking. It's time you flew the roost.

REBECCA

You're kicking me out?

TOM

No. Just giving you a push that's all. Ethan's on his way over so get yourself dressed. Fix your hair.

She walks closer to him. He stops her from speaking, takes her hand.

TOM (CONT'D)

I know you're scared of leaving me on my own but I'll be fine. You can't keep thinking the worst and, you and Ethan have got a good thing goin.

REBECCA

And if it doesn't work out?

TOM

Well you can't say you didn't give it a shot and my door is open, always.

She gives him a big hug. There's a knock at the front door. TOM opens it. ETHAN stands.

TOM (CONT'D)

Morning.

ETHAN

Hey
(looking at Rebecca)
Ready?

REBECCA

No actually. Just give me ten.

TOM

More like twenty.

REBECCA

Ignore him. Would you take my bags?

She turns, walks back up the stairs. TOM turns to ETHAN.

TOM

You break her heart I'll break your foot.

They laugh then TOM suddenly stops with a GLARE.

TOM (CONT'D)

But seriously... I will.

ETHAN nods in agreement then picks up one of the bags.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

ETHAN stands on a chair from the kitchen in the bathroom. He's changing a light bulb. There's a knock on the door. REBECCA opens it, TOM steps in.

REBECCA

Hey.

TOM

Just came over to see how you're settling in.

REBECCA

Yeah, great.

A small spark and thud is heard going from the bathroom. She turns around CONCERNED.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Ethan?! You okay?

ETHAN

Yeah.

TOM

What's he doing up there?

REBECCA

Changing a light bulb, I think.

TOM

Oh dear lord.

(looking up)

Sorry.

(looking back to Rebecca)

Remember my door's always open.

TOM walks towards the bathroom.

TOM (CONT'D)

What in the world are you doin?

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA sit on the couch WATCHING the TV.

ETHAN (V.O)

Life couldn't be better honestly. A huge hole was missing with my mom not being there. We hung out, watched her favourite movies. We talked about everything and anything. Got on like a house on fire.

INT. STORE - AFTERNOON

ETHAN walks around one of the aisles holding a basket.
REBECCA behind, looks at the items on the shelves.

ETHAN (V.O)
There was just one thing I needed to
do.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

ETHAN walks down the stairs in casual clothing. REBECCA
stands in the kitchen cleaning up.

ETHAN
Hey, I've gotta go out for a bit.

REBECCA
Okay, where?

ETHAN
Erm, fishing with your dad.

REBECCA
(amused)
You don't know how to fish.

ETHAN
Yeah I do.

REBECCA
Since when?

ETHAN
Well I've watched some vids and that.
How hard can it be? Just throw the
line in the water and the fish will
come.

REBECCA
You don't even have any stuff?

ETHAN walks over, gives her a kiss on the cheek.

ETHAN
I do now.

REBECCA
My dad can fish. Used to come home
with all sorts. Got his own boat.

ETHAN

I know.

He walks away towards the back of the house.

REBECCA

Been together three years now. Never mentioned fishing once.

There's a knock on the door. REBECCA opens it, TOM walks in. He wears typical fishing clothing and a fishing hat.

TOM

Good morning. He ready?

REBECCA

Morning think he's getting his stuff.

TOM

I'll stop off at the toy store on the way to get his rod.

TOM chuckles to himself.

REBECCA

What are you two up to?

ETHAN walks back in holding all of his gear.

ETHAN

We all set?

TOM

(putting up his thumb)
Let's go.

ETHAN gives REBECCA another kiss. He and TOM leave the house.

TOM (CONT'D)

Bye sweetheart.

REBECCA

Bye, have fun.

EXT. LAKE - MORNING

ETHAN and TOM sit on his boat. ETHAN looks around the lake. TOM sets up his line with the bait, tosses it into the water.

ETHAN

Nice day isn't it?

TOM

You know, I can't remember the last
time it rained.

ETHAN reaches into his pocket. He takes out a piece of
folded up paper. He unfolds it, reads a few lines that are
written down. He puts it back.

ETHAN

Wanna beer?

TOM

Erm, Janine said I shouldn't drink
before noon.

ETHAN

(looking at his phone)
It's eleven thirty two.

TOM

Close enough. Toss one here.

ETHAN grabs two bottles from the cooler. He opens the caps,
hands one to TOM.

ETHAN

Cheers.

They clack their bottles against each other's, take a drink.
TOM sits down.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I've been meaning to talk to you...

TOM

Yes.

ETHAN

What?

TOM

My answer is yes. You have my
permission.

ETHAN

Really?

TOM

I know you'll take care of her.
Someone has to. I'm not gonna be
around forever.

ETHAN

You don't have your doubts?

TOM

Maybe some. I'm a God abiding man. I can look past that you're not. Religion is talked about less and less these days. Listen you can't change a tyre, you can barely change a light bulb without electrocuting yourself. I doubt you can fix your sink if it leaks. But these are skills that you can learn to have in life. You know what you can learn to have?

ETHAN

What's that?

TOM

Heart kid. You've got lots of it. That's enough for me and it's enough for my daughter. I know how much you love her. I can see that way you look at her. More than you love yourself don't you?

ETHAN

I do.

TOM

How are you going to do it?

ETHAN

I've got an idea.

TOM

Great.

ETHAN

Can't believe how easy this was. I had a whole speech for ya.

TOM

Well if you start reading from that thing in your pocket I'll kick you off my boat and you can swim home. I don't wanna hear any of that crap.

ETHAN smiles. He takes a sip of his drink.

ETHAN

How did you know I was gonna ask?

TOM

Since when do you know how to fish?

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - EVENING

REBECCA, ETHAN and TOM stand in the hallway. TOM gives REBECCA a PROUD HUG.

TOM
Congratulations you two. I had no
idea.
(shaking Ethan's hand)
Welcome to the family.

ETHAN
Thanks Tom.

TOM
So let's see the thing.

REBECCA happily shows her hand to him.

TOM (CONT'D)
Very nice. How much that set you
back?

REBECCA
He won't say.

TOM
Come sit down. I got a nice bottle
from the store.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - LATER

ETHAN, REBECCA and TOM sit in the living room. They hold a glass of champagne each.

TOM
So when's it all booked for?

REBECCA
August.

TOM
Really?

ETHAN
There was a cancellation so we got
lucky.

TOM
I'll have to dust off the old suit.

REBECCA

Dad, are you sure you're okay with it not being a church wedding?

TOM

Don't be silly it doesn't matter where you get married or how many people are gonna be there.

ETHAN

Well we don't know that many people. I've no family there.

TOM

I'm sure your parents will be there.
(turning to Rebecca)
I'll make a few calls. You are having a reception?

REBECCA

Oh yeah.

TOM

Great. Oh I can't wait.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - AFTERNOON

ETHAN and REBECCA walk hand in hand around the venue. The room is a decent size. Perfect to hold a small number of guests.

ETHAN (V.O)

I don't remember much leading up to it. All bit of a blur. I just know how excited I was. I could wait to spend the rest of my life with her.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - NOON

It's the day of the WEDDING. ETHAN and TOM stand in a small room in their suits. ETHAN is calm but EXCITED. TOM is a bit FLUSHED, NERVOUS.

TOM

It's hot isn't it?

ETHAN

Is it?

TOM pulls inside his collar, yanks it a bit.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You good?

TOM

I'm sorry just a little nervous. How are you?

ETHAN

Yeah...

TOM

(interrupting)

It's just Rebecca has never seen me cry before. Raising her without Janine was the hardest thing I've ever done. I never let my engine stop spinning if you know what I mean. Not even during The Notebook. You seen it?

ETHAN

Yeah Becky loves it.

TOM

If I struggled to keep it together through all that how am I supposed to walk my baby down the aisle.

ETHAN

You're not getting cold feet on me Tom?

TOM

No, no. I'm saying it's gonna be hard for me that's all giving my little girl away.

ETHAN

I get it.

REBECCA walks into the room. She wears a traditional white dress. Her hair tied back. TOM proudly walks over to her.

TOM

Wow, would you look at yourself? There's no amount of money that could buy you.

REBECCA

(confused)

Thank you.

TOM

I'll see you out there.

He leaves the room. REBECCA strolls over to ETHAN.

ETHAN

I thought it was bad luck to see each other before the ceremony.

REBECCA

I don't believe in all that. You look amazing.

ETHAN

If you look up beautiful in the dictionary there should be a picture of how you look just now.

REBECCA

Can't believe the day is finally here. Gone by so fast.

They hug each other. A woman walks into the room.

WOMAN

You guys ready to do this?

REBECCA

Ready as we'll ever be.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - EARLY AFTERNOON

After the ceremony ETHAN and REBECCA walk into the reception. Their faces BEEM WITH HAPPINESS. There's a DJ at his booth in the corner of the room.

The small group of guests which includes couples from the BALLROOM clap and cheer. TOM proudly watches on with a TEAR IN HIS EYES.

ETHAN (V.O)

No sooner was my uncle in my life he was gone. I tried to see Callum there, but he wasn't. I don't think I had one person I really knew there.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - LATER

ETHAN and ETHAN stand by a table which has their WEDDING CAKE on it. It's a typical white cake with two figures of a bride and groom and a RED RIBBON around the base.

REBECCA along with ETHAN cuts the CAKE. They each take a bite.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - EARLY AFTERNOON

REBECCA and ETHAN stand in front of everybody. They hold hands.

REBECCA

I just want to thank everybody so much for being here today. Our family is tiny, but we're strong. I want to thank my dad for being the best man I could ever ask for. You've really done everything for me and I hope you're proud.

TOM

I am.

REBECCA gently wipes her eyes, tries her best not to smudge her make up.

REBECCA

Don't wanna ruin my mascara.

The guests smile.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - LATER

The DJ plays upbeat music, couples from the ballroom enjoy themselves as they dance. Other guests talk amongst themselves at the tables.

DJ

Okay ladies and gentlemen welcome to the floor for the first time, Mr and Mrs Black.

REBECCA and ETHAN walk hand in hand to the dance floor. Everybody stands to the side.

The DJ plays "BY YOUR SIDE" by SADE. They begin to dance in each other's arms. MELAINE stands beside TOM.

MELAINE

They look so happy together.

TOM proudly smiles at her. ETHAN and REBECCA gaze into each other's eyes as they enjoy the moment. She wraps her arms across his shoulders. His hands, on her hips.

INT. HOTEL - EVENING

A tired looking yet excited husband and wife enter their room. REBECCA walks over to the bed, lays down on her back.

REBECCA
I could sleep for a week.

ETHAN lays besides her. They gaze into each other's eyes and smile.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
I've got something for you.

ETHAN
For me?

She opens the drawer at the bedside cabinet. She pulls out a LONG RED JEWELLERY BOX that would normally have a neckless inside.

ETHAN moves to the side of the bed and they sit beside each other. She hands him the box.

REBECCA
Open it.

ETHAN
I didn't get you anything.

REBECCA
Don't worry it's not what you think.
Just open it.

ETHAN opens the box. A pregnancy test is inside. He takes it out, looks the see what the result is.

ETHAN
What does this mean?

REBECCA
It's a boy or a girl.

ETHAN
Well how did this happen?

She laughs at him. Puts her head on to his shoulders.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I'm gonna be a dad.

REBECCA
I'm gonna be a mom and I'm sacred.

He holds her hand.

ETHAN
I'll be with you every step of the way.

REBECCA
I've got a scan next week.

ETHAN
We have. I can't believe this. First you marry me now you're carrying my child. Pinch me.

She playfully pinches him.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I love you.

REBECCA
I love you too.

They kiss.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL - AFTERNOON

ETHAN sits on a bench eating a snack. He watches cars drive by. His phone rings. He reaches into his pocket, answers it.

ETHAN
Hey, hun. Really? Okay stay where you are, I'm on my way.

ETHAN throws his rubbish into a trash bin, runs towards the parking lot.

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

A hot and tired REBECCA sits on a bed in labour. ETHAN stands next to her, holds her hand tightly.

A midwife stands by the bed. She looks underneath the cover placed over REBECCA'S lap.

MIDWIFE
I can see the head crowning. Another couple of pushes and she's out.

REBECCA takes a deep breath then pushes hard as she can.

MIDWIFE (CONT'D)
Hold.

REBECCA
(relaxing)
I'm exhausted.

MIDWIFE
Just one more sweetie.

ETHAN
You've got this darlin. Just one
more.

REBECCA composes herself then gives it one last almighty push. The midwife grabs the BABY, covers her up. REBECCA slumps back. The baby cries.

MIDWIFE
Dad, would you cut the cord?

ETHAN takes the pair of scissors, cuts the baby's umbilical cord.

REBECCA
Is she okay?

MIDWIFE
She's great, but we'll be doing some
tests to make sure. Congratulations.

REBECCA
Thank you.

ETHAN
You did it.

REBECCA
(turning to Ethan)
We did it.

ETHAN (V.O)
There was nothing more scary than the
birth of my girl. It was a roller
coaster ride just hoping she was
okay. She was six weeks early but
everything was fine. I was a dad, a
husband. Nothing could be better. A
life whole.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

ETHAN walks into the house, carries a couple of large bags.
REBECCA walks into the house with the BABY in her arms.

REBECCA
Welcome to your home, Emma.

ETHAN
You need me to take her?

REBECCA
Yeah. I need another shower.
(looking at Emma)
You going to your dad?

She hands EMMA to him. ETHAN smiles looking down at his beautiful girl.

ETHAN
Hey little one.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - LATE EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA lay in bed asleep.

ETHAN (V.O)
I got a couple of weeks off work so I
could help with Emma.

EMMA cries out loud from her crib. REBECCA and ETHAN wake. REBECCA grabs EMMA, sits back into the bed. She pulls the cover over a little, begins to feed her.

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)
Even though Becky said she wanted to
breastfeed I still got up with her. I
wanted to be a hands on dad. Change
the dirty diapers, help her settle,
everything.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

ETHAN walks inside the school gates, holds the hand of a now THREE YEAR OLD EMMA. He gives her a big hug.

ETHAN
Have a great day. I love you.

EMMA
Love you daddy.

She walks inside to her classroom. He smiles, turns and walks back towards the gates.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

ETHAN walks into the house, closes the front door.

ETHAN
Rebecca?

REBECCA
Hey did she go in okay?!

ETHAN
No tears today.

REBECCA
Oh good. Can you come up here?

ETHAN walks up the stairs. REBECCA stands by the bathroom.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Close your eyes.

ETHAN
Okay.

REBECCA
Hold out your hands.

ETHAN puts his hands out.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Now open them.

ETHAN looks down, sees the same RED JEWELLERY BOX that REBECCA gave him on their wedding night. They EXCITEDLY smile.

ETHAN
(excited)
Come here.

They hug each other.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA sit on the couch in the living room.
REBECCA holds their newborn BABY BOY.

EMMA sits closely next to her mom. She rests her hand softly on the baby's chest. She looks at him in awe.

REBECCA
(talking to Emma)
Can you say Jake?

EMMA
Jake.

ETHAN (V.O)
I don't remember much leading up to
this moment. It was the first time we
were all together.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - MORNING

A tired looking TOM rests in his bed. REBECCA hands him a
glass of water.

TOM
Thanks sweetheart.

A vase with flowers and a few "Get well soon" cards sit on
top of the bedside cabinet.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - LATER

ETHAN sits on the couch. REBECCA walks over, sits next time.

ETHAN
You look wiped out.

REBECCA
I feel it.

ETHAN
Go get some sleep. I'll keep an eye
on him.

REBECCA
I'll just lay here for a bit if you
don't mind.

She turns her body, lays her head on his lap and stretches
out her legs.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
I really feel it's the right time to
move. I need to be closer to him.

ETHAN
What if we can't?

REBECCA

Can we at least try? His second heart attack in two years. His next could be his last. I wanna spend the most of the time he has left.

ETHAN

We'll have to get everything rolling then.

She looks up at him, puts her hand on his cheek.

ETHAN (V.O)

There was something I noticed in this moment. I can't remember a single argument we had, not really. I saw my parents argue, I saw other people argue. I'm not saying it meant anything, but it was something I noticed.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

ETHAN stands in an EMPTY living room. He takes a last look around the place.

ETHAN (V.O)

We soon sold up. Got a great deal on a house in the same neighborhood as Tom's. Isn't that lucky?

He walks out, closes the door.

EXT/INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - MID MORNING

ETHAN and REBECCA excitedly stand looking at their new home. A MOVING TRUCK is parked up behind them. The house is not very big, but it's modern. It has a brand new door and windows.

REBECCA puts the keys inside, turns the lock and they walk inside. They look around the living room area.

REBECCA

Which side do you think the should go?

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - NOON

A week later ETHAN and REBECCA have settled into their new home. All their furniture is in place.

REBECCA walks over to the corner of the living room. She holds an old fashioned RED LAMP. She places it onto a small table.

REBECCA
Do you like what I picked up?

ETHAN walks from the kitchen over to her. He looks at the lamp.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Got it from the antique store in town.

ETHAN
I can tell.

REBECCA
It's not that old.

ETHAN
Does it even work?

REBECCA puts it in to the outlet on the wall. Flips the switch. The light switches on.

REBECCA
Great.

ETHAN
It doesn't fit.

REBECCA
Well I like it. It'll make the room nice and cosy.

ETHAN
Okay if you say so.

ETHAN not making a fuss walks back to what he was doing.

REBECCA
And that's that.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

REBECCA and TOM sit at the table in the kitchen. There's a small stack of papers and a folder in front of them. She reads through them with a pen in her hand.

ETHAN lies on the couch. He watches a typical children's program with EMMA. JAKE lays on his play mat. He looks at the toys that dangle from it.

ETHAN (V.O)

Rebecca mostly worked from home at this point. Had clients come to the house for advice. She enjoyed it.

REBECCA

So there's a lot of spends under ten dollars which probably can be avoided. Around ten just this month. Four dollars at the gas station. What's that?

TOM

Erm...a hot dog.

REBECCA

A hot dog? One more heart attack from certain death and your buying hot dogs.

TOM

Not necessarily. They didn't use those words exactly.

REBECCA

Are you trying to kill yourself?

TOM

It's just a hotdog.

REBECCA

It has to be fresh, organic. You know this.

TOM

Who's the child here?
(turning to Ethan)
She like this with you?

ETHAN

She's the boss.

REBECCA

I'm sorry for looking out for you. At least are you taking your medication?

TOM

Yes mother.

REBECCA neatly organises the papers. She placed them into the folder.

REBECCA
No more under ten dollars crap you
don't need. You'll save around fifty
bucks a month.

TOM
Thank you.

TOM stands, walks over to the kids.

TOM (CONT'D)
Bye sweetie pie.

EMMA
Bye grandpa.

TOM
Bye.

ETHAN
See you later.

REBECCA sees TOM out, he leaves the house. She closes the
door, turns to ETHAN.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
You okay?

REBECCA
Yeah.

REBECCA sits by EMMA. Gives her a big hug.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
What are we watching?

EXT. TOWN - EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA walk hand in hand past a few bars and
restaurants. He wears a nice shirt, pants. She wears a RED
top and jeans.

ETHAN (V.O)
About once a month we'd have date
night. We'd get a sitter for Emma and
we'd get away for a bit. It just
helped our marriage. We did all sorts
really. Bowling, the movies, out to
eat. Went axe throwing once. She
nearly took my head off so that was
one time thing. Indoor skydiving was
really cool.

They turn towards a small cocktail bar. He holds the door open, she walks through.

REBECCA
Thank you.

INT. COCKTAIL BAR - EVENING

ETHAN and REBECCA stand near the bar. There's quite a few people around, but it's not too busy. REBECCA reads the menu.

ETHAN
You mind up your mind?

REBECCA
Tequila sunrise.

ETHAN
Two tequila sunrises coming up.

ETHAN walks over, waits to be served.

ETHAN (V.O)
Our favourite bar did two for one on Saturday nights. We went there quite a bit.

INT. COCKTAIL BAR - MOMENTS LATER

REBECCA sits at a table in the corner. ETHAN walks over with the cocktails and two shots.

REBECCA
We celebrating something?

ETHAN
Just being alive. Being married.

He sits down.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Cheers.

REBECCA
Cheers.

They clink the glasses, take the shot.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Mmmm what was that?

ETHAN
Monkey blowjob.

She smiles at him.

REBECCA
I should have known.

He cheekily smiles back, starts to drink his cocktail.

ETHAN (V.O)
There was just one rule to date
night. No kid talk. For a few hours,
we weren't parents. Just two people
wanting to have a great time.
Sometimes we'd play a game where we
didn't know each other so I'd have to
come out with a pick-up line to get
her interested. It became the
highlight of our month and we'd never
felt closer.

She leans over, kisses him on the lips.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

It's THREE YEARS LATER. ETHAN and REBECCA both asleep in
their bed. A mischievous looking JAKE creeps into the room
trying his best not to make a sound.

He crouches down then starts to crawl to ETHAN'S side of the
bed. He jumps up rapidly.

JAKE
(making dinosaur sounds)
Roar!

ETHAN and REBECCA quickly wake.

ETHAN
Oh it's our little alarm clock.

JAKE crawls all over his dad. ETHAN turns him over, starts
to tickle him. REBECCA stands with a smile in the boy's
direction then walks towards the bedroom door.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - MORNING

ETHAN and JAKE sit next to each other at the kitchen table.
REBECCA makes breakfast.

ETHAN (V.O)

I loved my daughter with all my heart, but there was something special about the relationship I had with my boy. He wasn't exactly like me, but we had this click. We had it since the beginning. He was more than my son, my best friend.

A tired looking EMMA walks into the kitchen.

ETHAN

Good morning princess.

She walks over to him. He gives her a kiss on the forehead. She sits down.

JAKE

Daddy where are we going today?

ETHAN

Today I'm taking you for your haircut.

REBECCA

Guys what do you want for breakfast?

EMMA

Pancakes.

JAKE

I don't like pancakes.

REBECCA

So what do you want then?

JAKE

Pancakes.

REBECCA smiles at him.

REBECCA

Coming up.

ETHAN

Emma what's that on your arm?

She has a small bruise on her forearm.

EMMA

I fell.

ETHAN

Again?

REBECCA
I've never known a girl who loves
climbing as much.

ETHAN
You'll be covered soon monkey.

JAKE starts to make monkey sounds. ETHAN looks at him, joins in.

INT. BARBERSHOP - NOON

ETHAN sits on a chair next to EMMA whilst JAKE gets his haircut.

JAKE
(speaking to the barber)
I'm three.

BARBER
When do you turn four?

JAKE
On my birthday.

BARBER
(turning to Ethan)
I walked into that didn't I?

ETHAN
(smiling)
He's a character isn't he?

BARBER
Sure is.
(speaking to Jake)
Okay just look back into mirror for
me little man. You like dinosaurs?

JAKE
Yeah.

EXT. BARBERSHOP - LATER

ETHAN, EMMA and JAKE leave the shop.

ETHAN
Bye.

They start to walk. JAKE stops, runs to catch up. He stops again, then runs to catch up. EMMA starts to skip.

JAKE
Daddy can we get ice cream?

ETHAN
I thought you didn't like ice cream.

JAKE
I do. I eat it all this time.

ETHAN
Do you want some Emma?

EMMA
Of course.

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - EARLY AFTERNOON

ETHAN and the kids stand behind the counter as they wait to be served. They look at the many flavours of ice cream to choose from.

ETHAN
Okay what do we want?

JAKE
Anilla.

ETHAN
Anilla.

JAKE
But in a cup not a cone.

ETHAN
Sprinkles or sauce?

JAKE
No.

EMMA
Daddy can I have chocolate in a cone?

ETHAN
Course.

JAKE
Chocolate spicy.

EMMA
How can chocolate be spicy?

JAKE
It is.

ETHAN
Jake you gonna eat it all this time?

JAKE
I am.

EMMA
What are you getting daddy?

ETHAN
Cherry garcia I think.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

ETHAN and the return home. REBECCA prepares dinner in the kitchen.

ETHAN
Hey.

REBECCA
Hey.

They enter the kitchen. JAKE runs up to his mom.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
(stroking his hair)
Wow you look so smart. What's this?

She sees the ice cream stain on his shirt.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Did you all get ice cream without me?

JAKE
(laughing)
Yeah.

REBECCA
Did you save me some?

JAKE
No.

REBECCA
No? Come here.

JAKE runs out of the kitchen with a loud laugher.

EMMA
Mom what's for dinner?

REBECCA
A nice roast.

EMMA
I'm starved.

REBECCA
Grandpa is coming over.

EMMA
(excited)
Yey.

EMMA walks out of the kitchen.

ETHAN
That girl is a human waste disposal.

REBECCA
I know I don't know where she puts in
all. Would you get my dad soon?

ETHAN
Yeah.

REBECCA
Thank you.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Everybody sits at the kitchen table. They enjoy their meal.

TOM
(talking to Ethan)
It could just be your belt. I'll take
a look at it.

ETHAN
Thanks. I was just gonna take it to a
garage.

TOM
So they can rip you off? Leave it me.

JAKE
Grandpa what's that?

JAKE points to a medicine bottle that's on the table in
front of TOM.

TOM
Oh it's just my pills son. Sorry.

He puts the bottle into his pocket.

TOM (CONT'D)
For my heart.

JAKE
Do they work?

TOM
Yeah I hope so. Hey where's your greens?

JAKE gives TOM a cheeky smile.

REBECCA
He just wastes them.

TOM
How are you going to be big and strong like your grandpa?

REBECCA
We've tried everything.

TOM
Okay no dessert for Jakey.

EMMA
Good job we had ice cream already.

TOM
What? I can't believe my ears.
(turning to Ethan)
Ethan?

Ethan smiles, carries on with his meal. TOM looks over at EMMA.

TOM (CONT'D)
How's the dancing goin on sweetie?

EMMA
Good.

TOM
You know, your mom and me used to win competitions back in the day.

REBECCA
He means I did.

TOM
Don't take all the credit. I taught her everything she knows.

EMMA

Was you really good mommy?

REBECCA

I was okay.

TOM

Better than okay. Your dad...
terrible.

The kids laugh.

JAKE

Grandpa you know when you poo, you
have to sit down.

TOM

Yeah that's the best way of doin it.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - EVENING

JAKE and EMMA play with their toys in the bath together.
ETHAN stands in the bedroom, he grabs some clothes to change
in to. REBECCA sits on the bed.

REBECCA

Hey, so I don't want to fight...

ETHAN

(interrupting)
Us fight?

REBECCA

We've been spending too much lately.
We need to start stripping back here
and there so trips to the zoo and...

ETHAN

(interrupting)
It's like our favourite place.

REBECCA

I know but, it's expensive to keep
going each month. We spent so much on
the house.

ETHAN

This house was a steal.

REBECCA

I know but, a lot of our savings
still went into it remember. We can
still have fun.

ETHAN

One sec.

ETHAN walks out towards the bathroom. He peeps his head in.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You guys okay?

EMMA

Yeah.

JAKE

Daddy, five more minutes?

ETHAN

Just five. The water is gonna get cold.

ETHAN walks back to the bedroom.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Listen, I just want the kids to feel like life is an adventure, one after the other. My dad spent all his time at work instead of having fun. I don't wanna be like that.

REBECCA

I know and you do such a great job. You are fun. I have to be the realistic here though. We can have our adventures, ones that will cost less so we don't struggle later on.

ETHAN

You're right.

ETHAN leans over, gives her a kiss.

REBECCA

Always am.

ETHAN

I'll get them out the bath.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - EVENING

EMMA and JAKE in their pajamas lie in their bed. ETHAN places a book down onto the small table next to the bed. JAKE holds a small toy dinosaur above him.

EMMA

Daddy are monsters real?

ETHAN
Monster? No. They're make believe in stories.

EMMA
Darcy said she saw one in her bedroom.

ETHAN
Maybe she was dreaming. Don't worry, no monsters here. They're not real.

EMMA
Santa real though?

ETHAN
Yeah santa is. He gives you your presents every year.

EMMA
Tooth fairy?

ETHAN
Yeah.

EMMA
What about grinch?

JAKE
Don't like grinch, steals presents.

ETHAN
We'll lock the doors so the grinch doesn't get in.

EMMA
How can santa deliver to every house in one night?

ETHAN
It's getting late now honey.

ETHAN stands, walks to the bedroom door.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Love you guys.

EMMA
Love you daddy.

ETHAN
Jake, love you.

JAKE

Love you.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LATER

ETHAN and REBECCA lie under the covers in their bed. They passionately kiss.

ETHAN

When was the last time we err... you know?

REBECCA

Oh I can't even remember. Are the kids asleep?

ETHAN

It's pretty quiet.

REBECCA

We're gonna have to be then.

They continue to kiss.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - MORNING

MUSIC CUE: "YOUR DOMINO" by JESSIE WARE

REBECCA sits at the kitchen table. She shows ETHAN what's on her screen.

REBECCA

Okay our adventure is playparks and nature. Fill up the car to last the month hopefully. We travel to local parks. Take picnics to save on food. Plan?

ETHAN

Plan.

CUT TO:

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - MORNING

ETHAN and REBECCA prepare sandwiches, cakes, drinks, etc for their picnic. JAKE plays in the living room with his toys. EMMA walks over, gives a large basket to her mom.

REBECCA

Thank you.

They put the food into the basket.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Ready?

She picks up the basket. ETHAN grabs his car keys, they all leave the house.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. ETHAN'S CAR - MORNING

A clear summer's day. Not a cloud in sight. ETHAN drives down the road. Everybody SINGS to the song on the radio.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - MID MORNING

EMMA and JAKE run out of the parked car. They head for the play equipment.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - LATER

A happy Emma goes down the slide. ETHAN carries JAKE along the monkey bars. He then pushes him in child's swing.

REBBECA sits in a bigger swing. She swings back and forth, tries to get as high as she can.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - NOON

In a more quiet section of the park ETHAN, REBBECA and the kids sit on a large blanket. They enjoy their food.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - EARLY AFTERNOON

There's a large pond with ducks that swim in it. EMMA and JAKE stand by the water. They throw seeds for the ducks. REBBECA and ETHAN stand behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

ETHAN drives away from the park towards home. JAKE is fast asleep. EMMA stares out of the window. REBBECA puts her hand out to ETHAN'S. He grabs it.

CUT TO:

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - EVENING

A dancing game is on the TV. ETHAN and REBECCA hand in hand try to dance to what the game shows them. EMMA and JAKE dance near them. They make up their OWN MOVES.

CUT TO:

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - EVENING

EMMA and JAKE lie in their beds asleep. ETHAN shuts the bedroom door, but leaves a little space so light stays in the room. He walks over to his room. REBBECA gets ready for bed. She looks up at him, they smile.

END MUSIC CUE

EXT. PARK - MID MORNING

At a different park the kids play on the big climbing frame. REBBECA helps JAKE around.

ETHAN (V.O)

Have you ever had the feeling that something bad was gonna happen? You were probably wrong, but you still got the feeling that something wasn't quite right.

The grey clouds turn dark. Rain starts to pour.

REBBECA

Oh I didn't know the forecast. Come on kids.

REBBECA carries JAKE off of the frame. EMMA climbs down. They start to run towards the car. ETHAN stands in confusion, looks around. He sees the water bounce off his hand.

The rain INTENSIFIES. REBBECA turns back.

REBBECA (CONT'D)

Ethan! Ethan! We gotta go!

He looks at her, slowly starts to walk over. He looks up at the sky as he does so.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

ETHAN sits in front of the television. The football game is about to start.

ETHAN (V.O)
The night which would change my life
forever.

REBBECA walks over with EMMA and JAKE.

REBBECA
Honey we're going now.

ETHAN
(turning to the kids)
Hugs.

The kids over to give him a hug.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Have fun.

JAKE
I don't want to go, want watch
football.

ETHAN
You're gonna have a great time buddy.
It's a party. You know how much you
love parties. They got big slides
there too.

REBECCA
Enjoy the game.

She gives him a kiss.

ETHAN
Bye kids. Love you.

REBECCA
Bye. Keep me posted on the score.

ETHAN
Will do.

They leave the house. ETHAN gets more comfortable on the couch.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LATER

ETHAN lays on the couch. He holds a bottle of beer in his hand. He looks at TV, enjoys the game. He notices the RED LAMP in the corner of his eye.

He looks at it. The lamp is BLURRY and DISTORTED. He looks at it confused. He looks back at the TV, shakes his head. He tries to focus on the game. He looks back at the lamp.

The lamp has FLIPPED UPSIDE DOWN. ETHAN jumps up in shock.

ETHAN

What the...

He stands.

ETHAN (V.O)

I thought it was the beer messing with my eyes, then I realised I only had two. Everything else was crystal clear except the old lamp.

He slowly walk over to the lamp, reaches out to touch it. He walks back, sits down.

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)

I could believe my eyes. Whatever was happening, it had me now.

INT. ETHAN AND REBBECA'S HOUSE - EVENING

REBECCA and the kids enter the house.

REBECCA

Hey. You didn't text.

ETHAN sits on the couch, STARES at the LAMP. JAKE walks over.

JAKE

Daddy look.

He holds a party bag towards ETHAN'S face. ETHAN keeps his eyes on the LAMP. The kids run up the stairs. REBECCA gives ETHAN a kiss on the cheek, puts her arm around him.

REBECCA

Great game?

ETHAN'S wide eyes stay TRANSFIXED on the lamp.

ETHAN
There's something wrong with the
lamp.

REBECCA stands, looks at it.

REBECCA
(confused)
What do you mean?

EMMA
Mom! Come on!

REBECCA
Coming! I'm just gonna give the kids
a bath.

REBECCA walks towards the stairs.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LATER

REBECCA walks down a few steps of the staircase. She looks
over at ETHAN. The living room is dark, the TV is off.

The DIM RED GLOW FROM THE LAMP is the only light. ETHAN sits
in the EXACT same spot as before.

REBECCA
(talking quietly)
Ethan? Ethan? Are you coming to bed?

ETHAN
Be right there.

ETHAN (V.O)
I stayed there all night looking at
it. The only time I moved was when I
needed to use the bathroom then I
went back to it.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - MORNING

REBECCA stands in the kitchen. She holds calls her dad.

REBECCA
Dad can you come over?

TOM
Is everything okay?

REBECCA
It's Ethan. I'm really worried about
him.

TOM
Okay I'll be right over.

INT. ETHAN AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LATER

REBECCA and TOM stand over ETHAN who stays fixed on the
lamp. ETHAN barely blinks.

TOM
How long has he been like this?

REBECCA
All night. I haven't seen him move
once.

TOM
(speaking to Ethan)
Morning son. How about we get you
some fresh air?

ETHAN
I can't.

TOM
Why?

ETHAN
The lamp.

REBECCA
That's all he says.

TOM
I'll just take this thing out of here
then.

TOM walks over to the lamp.

ETHAN
Oh shit!

THE LAMP GROWS DOUBLE IN SIZE, then TRIPLE, it keeps
GROWING. ETHAN let's out a big moaning sound.

TOM
What is it?

REBECCA
(upset)
Ethan talk to us!

ETHAN (V.O)
It wouldnt stop getting bigger and
bigger.

THE LAMP OPENS. It takes the shape of a RED VORTEX that
swirls around the room.

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)
Until it sucked us inside.

Everything in the room is sucked into the vortex.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

A small cosy office with framed PHD'S hang on the walls.
ETHAN sits in a chair. His eyes filled with water. He looks
a shadow of his former self.

He has UNTIDY HAIR and a BEARD. The sparkle in his eyes
gone.

CLAIRE, a smartly dressed woman in her early forties sits
behind a desk. She looks over at ETHAN with a SYMPATHETIC
EXPRESSION.

CLAIRE
What happened next?

ETHAN
They were gone... I never saw them
again.

The tears roll down his cheeks. You can see the sadness in
his eyes, the pain on his face, the anger in his mind.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

A WEEK PRIOR, CLAIRE walks out of her office.

CLAIRE
Ethan?

ETHAN sits in the small waiting area. He hesitantly stands,
walks over. They walk into the office. She closes the door.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
My name is Claire.
(shaking his hand)
Please take a seat.

ETHAN sits. CLAIRE walks over to her desk, sits opposite him.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
So can you tell me why you came here today?

ETHAN
Well my mom thought it was a great idea.

CLAIRE
Not you?

ETHAN
(looking at her more directly)
I don't like talking about it.
(breaking eye contact)
Everyone thinks I'm crazy, I'm not.

CLAIRE
Before we officially start I just want you know that I'm not here to judge. I just want to understand how you feel and what you've been through. You don't even have to talk, no one is forcing you to be here. Whatever you do say will be strictly confidential. I can't say anything to anybody.

ETHAN nods in agreement.

ETHAN
It's just to you it's a story, an unbelievable one. But, to me it was my life. In my life I had the most beautiful wife and children.

CLAIRE
I have two beautiful children. If I lost them I don't know what I'd do. If you feel like, can we go back to the start?

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

ETHAN and JACOB stand opposite each, CALLUM close to them.

ETHAN (V.O)
It's been four years since.

JACOB cocks his hand back, punches ETHAN to the ground. He lies motionless.

CALLUM
(shocked)
What the hell?!

CALLUM kneels by ETHAN. Other students crowd around him.

ETHAN (V.O)
I wasn't dropped, I was out cold.

INT. HOSPITAL - MID MORNING

ETHAN lies unconscious in a bed. His mother KATE sits by him. ETHAN slowly opens his eyes. KATE stands from the seat.

KATE
Son.

ETHAN
What happened?

KATE
You hit your head.

ETHAN'S dad JOHN rushes into the room. He looks over at ETHAN.

JOHN
Thank god. How you feeling?

ETHAN
Fuzzy.

KATE
Everything's goin to be okay.

ETHAN
Where's Rebecca?

KATE
Who's Rebecca?

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

ETHAN sits up in bed. KATE and JOHN sit either side of him. A nurse walks into the room.

NURSE

Good morning. How are you feeling?

ETHAN

I've a banging headache.

NURSE

Understandable. You took a big knock to the head. I'll make sure you get some painkillers.

ETHAN

When can I get out of here?

NURSE

We're going to have to keep you overnight at least.

ETHAN

At least? I need to get home.

NURSE

We're going to monitor you. You were out for a good hour.

KATE

Whats the results of the scan?

NURSE

The results of the CT scan is that Ethan has a mild concussion. Good news, no bleeding or swelling of the brain.

(looking back at Ethan)

We do need to keep you for observations as a precaution. When you get home you're going to have to take it easy for a bit. No exercise, no driving. Just relax.

ETHAN

Okay, thank you.

KATE

Thank you.

NURSE

(smiling)

No problem.

The nurse leaves the room.

JOHN

You're better off here Ethan.

KATE
Listen to the nurse.

ETHAN
Okay. Hopefully they'll say I'm good
to go tomorrow.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NOON

The NEXT DAY ETHAN stands in a shelter with his phone
against his ear.

ETHAN
Hey man.

CALLUM
Ethan! You okay? I've been worried
about you. They kicked Jay out of
school.

ETHAN
Listen I need you to do something for
me.

CALLUM
Anything.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

Ethan nervously stands in the kitchen. His phone rings. He
quickly picks it up, answers it.

ETHAN
Yeah.

CALLUM
Hey man sorry for not calling sooner.

ETHAN
It's fine. So?

CALLUM
Yeah, um they've never heard of a
Rebecca Morris...

ETHAN
(interrupting)
Morrison.

CALLUM
No they've never heard of her. I
asked them to check the computer.
(MORE)

CALLUM (CONT'D)
She isn't there.

ETHAN
That's a mistake. We have English
together.

CALLUM
We have English. I've never seen her
before.

ETHAN
(shocked)
No! No, no, no.

KATE worriedly walks into the kitchen.

KATE
What's wrong?

ETHAN
I have to go.

CALLUM
Yeah. I'll come by tomorrow.

ETHAN hangs up the phone, he starts to cry. KATE puts her
arms around him.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

ETHAN stands in the school office. He talks to the
receptionist who sits behind the computer.

ETHAN (V.O)
I couldn't accept it. I had to find
her.

EXT. LAKE - AFTERNOON

ETHAN sits on the grass by the lake. He looks around.

ETHAN (V.O)
I went to our spots hoping she'd be
there.

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - EVENING

ETHAN drives down the dark road. Heavy rain hits the
windshield.

ETHAN (V.O)
I was going nuts. I had a huge fight
with my mom cos I took the car.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - LATE EVENING

ETHAN lays in his bed. He stares up at the ceiling.

ETHAN (V.O)
I couldn't sleep. I didn't want to
talk. I just wanted to see her. I
went to the doctors to get answers. I
was tricked. They said I dreamed of a
life that never was. I knew what a
dream felt like. It wasn't, it was
real.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

The next day ETHAN lays on his bed, stares into NOTHING.
KATE knocks on his bedroom door, walks in.

KATE
I'm about to serve dinner.

ETHAN
I'm not hungry.

KATE
You've barely eaten since coming back
from the hospital. I'll leave the
plate in the oven.

ETHAN
Thanks.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

ETHAN sits at the patio table in the back garden. KATE walks
over.

KATE
You okay?

ETHAN
Yeah I guess.

KATE
I've been doing some thinking. You
should see somebody, a professional.

ETHAN

Na.

KATE

I think it'll help. You can get everything off your chest. Tell your story.

ETHAN

It wasn't a story mom.

KATE

Okay, okay, I'm sorry. I know a well respected psychologist. She's helped someone I know so I got her card for you.

ETHAN

So another person can look at me like I'm freak with an imaginary family. It's bad enough what I went through in school.

KATE

I know. I got all the phone calls because of all the fights you got in.

ETHAN

They wouldn't stop.

KATE

I still think you should have pressed charges.

ETHAN

They would have just thought less of me.

KATE

But look at what he did to you.

ETHAN

He gave me something.

KATE

At what cost? You woke up a different person. You barely talk, you're short fused...

ETHAN

(interrupting)

Can you blame me?

KATE places a card in front of ETHAN.

KATE
Call her, please.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

Back in the office with ETHAN and CLAIRE.

ETHAN
I told Callum everything.

CLAIRE
Do you still keep in touch?

ETHAN
When everybody at school found out, I blamed him for it. I know now it wasn't him, but it was the end of our friendship. I couldn't wait to get school over with. Kept my head down, avoided everyone I knew.

CLAIRE
It's not too late to get in contact with him.

ETHAN
It's best not to. I don't know where he ended up.

CLAIRE
What did your parents think when you told them?

ETHAN
I want to think my mom believed me. My dad just thought it was in my head. I haven't talked about it to anyone since.

CLAIRE
Listen I'm going to ask you to do something I wouldn't normally ask. Would you tell me the story, I'm sorry would you tell me the life you lived with them? Not here. I know how hard this has been for you. Record yourself and send the voice notes to me. Could you do that?

ETHAN
I'll try.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

ETHAN sits on his bed, his phone in front of him. He picks it up, presses RECORD. He pauses, presses STOP. Again he presses RECORD.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

ETHAN and CLAIRE sit opposite each other.

CLAIRE

I listened to everything. Thank you for doing that.

ETHAN

So what do you think? I imagined it all?

CLAIRE

I believe you.

ETHAN

I should have realised. Some things didn't make sense sometimes.

CLAIRE

What things?

ETHAN

The fact that it never rained. Perfect weather everyday. There was just once actually it did rain. Time seemed to skip ahead without me noticing. Just things that didn't add up.

CLAIRE

It sounded like you had a great life.

ETHAN

We did. We had fun, laughed. It was...

CLAIRE

(interrupting)

Perfect.

ETHAN

I feel bad you know.

CLAIRE

What about?

ETHAN

I lost my parents. I spent like seven, eight years without them. The day came April fifteenth. Nothing happened, they're still here. I should be happy, but I feel such guilt because I'm not. They've done everything for me and I can't repay them with a smile. I should be out taking them for dinner. Instead I barely see them.

CLAIRE

I feel like they just want you to be better. Every parent wants what's best for their child no matter what their age is. My mom still tells me what to do. Gives me life advice at forty three and I still need it sometimes.

ETHAN

I had to move out. They didn't want me to but I couldn't live there anymore. The time we spent. I just felt like a huge hole was there. I'm living in a one bedroom what they called an apartment.

CLAIRE

Do you have people over?

ETHAN

Never.

CLAIRE

Have you had any relationships since the incident?

ETHAN

Relationships?

CLAIRE

You're young. You've got your whole life ahead of you. You mustn't forget that.

ETHAN

I err..

CLAIRE

(interrupting)

I'm sure there's loads of young women that you can see.

ETHAN

No.

CLAIRE

Sure there is.

ETHAN

I'm not interested.

CLAIRE

I'm sure if you put yourself out there...

ETHAN

(leaping out of his chair)

I can't! I can't do it! Don't you think I didn't try?!

ETHAN looks around the room with his head in his hands.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I tried my best to move on. I went on dates, but I felt like I was doing something wrong. Like I was cheating on my family. I want to be happy, but I can't let anybody else in.

ETHAN starts to fill up with tears.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry for pushing you. Please sit down.

ETHAN

(crying)

I had it all. My beautiful family, my special son and daughter... I had it all and it was taken away from me!!

He leans over the chair, distraut.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I can't keep on talking about it. It's destroying me. If I'd just kept my mouth shut it'd have never happened. I wouldn't feel like something has been ripped right out of me. I grieved for three people that never even fucking existed!

He sits back down. CLAIRE pushes a box of tissues towards him. He takes one, wipes his eyes.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

CLAIRE

Don't apologise. I pushed you.

ETHAN

One date was going alright. Then I let slip Rebecca's name and that was that. I gave up trying.

CLAIRE

Do you really feel like it was all a mistake?

ETHAN

No... I don't know. I lived a life some people never get a chance of having. Some people don't find the happiness I felt. I just wish I could have them again. I'd give anything.

CLAIRE

Have they ever appeared in your dreams since?

ETHAN

Only Jake. Only a few times. It's the same dream each time. I'm sleeping alone and he comes along. It didn't matter what time he went to bed, he'd always be the first one up. He'd sneak in, wake me up. He doesn't say anything just does my wake up call. Have you ever had a dream and you know you're dreaming?

CLAIRE

Yeah. It's weird. You're asleep but somehow conscious to what's going on in your head.

ETHAN

I tried to change the dreams so I could see them all. I can't do it. I tried sleeping pills, hallucigens. Nothing will take me back.

CLAIRE

I can prescribe...

ETHAN (CONT'D)
(interrupting)
I can't come back here. It's just too much.

CLAIRE
Ethan please sit.

ETHAN
I'm sorry.

He stands up, leaves the room. CLAIRE sits disappointed.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Around SIX YEARS have passed. ETHAN wakes in bed alone. He moves the cover off of him, sits up.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LATER

ETHAN sits at the kitchen table, eats his breakfast. The table is very small and old. There's an empty chair opposite. ETHAN has no sense of joy in his life.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MID MORNING

ETHAN sits alone in the busy shop, stares at his cup of coffee. CLAIRE walks by. She holds a take out coffee along with a food item in a bag.

CLAIRE
Ethan.

ETHAN
(looking up from the cup)
Hi.

CLAIRE
How are you? It must have been five years since you came in.

ETHAN
I'm surprised you remember my name.

CLAIRE
How could I forget? So what are you up to?

ETHAN
Got work later, overtime.

CLAIRE
I thought about you. Hoping you were
okay.

ETHAN
I'm still the same. Just keeping my
head down. You still at the same
place?

CLAIRE
Yeah. It's a hard life. People need
someone to listen to, confide in.
Want someone advice?

ETHAN
(cracking a smile)
No.

CLAIRE smiles back.

CLAIRE
Take a break. Forget about work. Take
a trip somewhere and clear your mind.
Go somewhere.

ETHAN
Where?

CLAIRE
Anywhere. Think about it. I've gotta
get going. You take care of yourself.

CLAIRE stands.

ETHAN
Thanks for listening to me.

CLAIRE
Not a problem. Take good care of
yourself.

ETHAN
You too.

She walks out of the shop.

INT/EXT. GAS STATION - MORNING

ETHAN puts gas into the car. He drives the same car that
he's drove since high school. He fills the tank, puts the
nozzle onto the holder.

He walks into the station. He waits to be served. A man stands in front of him. He pays up, turns around.

JACOB
Thank you. Ethan?

ETHAN looks at him with a FIERCE expression.

JACOB (CONT'D)
How are you doin'?

ETHAN tries his best to contain his emotions.

JACOB (CONT'D)
It's been a long time, huh?

ETHAN
Yeah.

JACOB
I heard what happened at the hospital. I tried to find out where you lived, but no one would tell me.

ETHAN
Why, you wanted another round?

JACOB
No. I wanted to say thanks for letting me off and I'm sorry. I was a different person back then. I wanted to be an animal on and off the field and I destroyed any chance of a career before it could start. I'm sorry what you went through.

ETHAN
(dismissive)
Could have been worse I suppose.

JACOB
I heard what they said about you. It's not right. What have you been up to then?

ETHAN
Not much.

JACOB
I'll see you. Take care.

ETHAN
You too.

JACOB leaves the station. ETHAN walks to the counter.

EXT. BEACH - NOON

MUSIC CUE: "CRY" by CIGARETTES AFTER SEX

Rain falls onto the deserted beach. ETHAN wears pants, a waterproof jacket with the hood up. He walks over to a bench which has shelter. He puts down his hood.

He watches the waves crash. REBECCA walks over, sits beside him. She holds his hand. His eyes light up. He looks at her in DISBELIEF as she fixes his MESSY HAIR.

She leans in, puts her head on his shoulder. He looks away. The rain intensifies. He looks back, HE SITS ALONE.

He gazes at the empty bench next him. He stands, wipes his eyes then walks towards the ocean.

FADE OUT:

THE END