

A Thousand Words
an original screenplay by
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INT. DUSTY OLD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Blankets cover the furniture at a house of a deceased woman. Several boxes line the floor in the living room.

DOUG

Mom! When are we getting out of here. I'm getting bored.

Doug (10) sits back playing a hand held game. Two women, DIANA (25) and SARAH (32) walk in carrying boxes. Obvious sisters, they share a sad look to them.

DIANA

Dougie, you need to sit back and play your game. We are going to be here all day.

Doug, flustered sits back hard.

SARAH

He misses mom, doesn't he?

DIANA

Yeah, they got close before she passed.

SARAH

Sad.

Sarah picks up a picture of a boy fishing in black and white.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Who is this?

DIANA

That looks like dad when he was a kid.

Sarah looks at the picture and smiles. She walks over to a large box of hundreds of photos. She lets the photo fall from her hand and it sways to the box.

INT. INSIDE OF PHOTO - CONTINUOUS

The YOUNG FISHER looks around the lake, feeling an ominous breeze.

INT. DUSTY OLD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - PHOTO BOX - CONTINUOUS

The Young Fisher photo lands in the pile.

INT. INSIDE OF PHOTO - CONTINUOUS

A violent, but short, earthquake rattles the Young Fisher's world. He falls to the ground. Rattled, he looks over to the edge of the photo and sees...

INT. OLDER FISHER PHOTO - CONTINUOUS

The OLDER FISHER (25), obviously the Young Fisher grown up, fishing at the same pond. The Young Fisher climbs out of the black and white photo and into the early color Polaroid. The Older Fisher looks over and sees the Young Fisher shyly walking over. The Older Fisher pulls out a folding chair and invites the Young Fisher to sit. The Young Fisher obliges. The Older Fisher opens up the cooler next to him and grabs two sodas. He hands one over to the Young Fisher. They smiles and cling bottles together. The Older Fisher turns on the radio and a nice piano plays.

(Piano plays throughout the rest of the story)

INT. DUSTY OLD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - PHOTO BOX - CONTINUOUS

The box starts to move slightly as the photos start to come to life. Several people from some photos move over to other photos. Several people in different hues start to talk to others in photos and silent conversations occur.

INT. FAMILY REUNION FOOTBALL GAME - 80'S PHOTO - CONTINUOUS *

A family reunion photo comes to life as a YOUNG MAN gets the ball hiked to him. He looks around and throws the ball in the air. The ball travels up and...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME - LATE 90'S - CONTINUOUS

...into the frame of a high school game. It stays in the air and lands in the arms of...

INT. COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME - EARLY 40'S - CONTINUOUS

...a COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER. He jumps a defender and runs in for the score. He looks down at the football and notices that it looks really strange and misshapen. He looks around.

INT. MAN AND WIFE PHOTO - EARLY 90'S - CONTINUOUS

A GROOM and his WIFE eat their wedding cake. The Groom and Wife look into each others eyes, seeing their future. The Wife looks over and sees...

INT. MAN AND 2ND WIFE PHOTO - LATE 90'S - CONTINUOUS

...the same Groom, slightly older, holding his 2ND WIFE in his arms at their reception.

INT. MAN AND WIFE PHOTO - EARLY 90'S - CONTINUOUS

The Wife looks over to her Groom and grabs a large piece of cake and slams it into his face. She walks out of the first photo to...

INT. MAN AND 2ND WIFE PHOTO - LATE 90'S - CONTINUOUS

...the 2nd Wife. They look at each other and then to the Groom. With fire, they are about to slap the Groom when they look over to the side and sees...

INT. MAN AND 3RD WIFE PHOTO - MID 2000'S - CONTINUOUS

...a distraught Groom, even older, holding hands with a hideous 3RD WIFE. The 3rd Wife looks over to the groom and gives him a grin that gives him the creeps. The 1st Wife and 2nd Wife laugh silently.

INT. DARKENED LIVING ROOM - LATE 70'S - CONTINUOUS

An OLD SOLDIER, wearing his military uniform, talks a big story to several people. He makes several gestures showing his bravery to the enamoured people. He looks up and sees a YOUNG SOLDIER standing in the background. The yellowing of his newspaper photo clearly visible, the Young Soldier looks weak and weary of his plight. The Old Soldier stands up shaking. He raises his arm and salutes his younger self. The Young Soldier salutes back, knowing that he makes it through this hell to be an old man.

INT. INSIDE OF PHOTO BOX - CONTINUOUS

Several photos combine into a nice dark hill. Several people from different photos sit back and watch the multi-colored fireworks light up the sky. A particular firework makes a loud pop.

INT. DUSTY OLD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Doug hears a slight pop and looks over to the photo box. He gives a confused look and goes back to his game.

INT. INSIDE OF PHOTO BOX - LATER

Several people align their pictures together to show a long dinner table. People of all different colors and hues gather around the table, silently talking about their lives up to the point that the photo was taken. They all grow silent as...

INT. END DINETTE PHOTO - A MONTH AGO - CONTINUOUS

...Diana and Sarah walk with their cancer riddled MOTHER. They sit Mother down with the care of fine China.

Mother looks about the gathering of people and a small tear comes to her eye. She grabs a glass and the pain of her illness can be seen in her eyes. The Young Fisher and the Older Fisher looks at each other and come up with an idea. They excuse themselves from the table and jump into the photos. They scrounge around and come across a photo of YOUNG MOTHER from her days as a young vibrant 20 year old. They lift up the photo and bring it up to the end of the dinette. They look at the Older Mother and she nods in agreement. They lift the photo and place it over the Older Mother and the Young Mother comes to life. She looks at her hands and feels no pain from the cancer. She stands up straight and looks out to the people. She thanks everyone for coming and sits back down. A slightly YOUNGER DIANA walks up to Young Mother and presents her with her first grandchild, BABY DOUG. She marvels as she looks into the young wondering eyes of her legacy.

YOUNG MOTHER

You take care of your mother. She
is going to need you.

INT. DUSTY OLD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Doug, hearing every word, looks around. He stands up and walks up to the box of photos. He leans over and grabs the photo of Young Mother. He stares at it with wonder. Diana walks in and looks at Doug. She walks over to Doug.

DOUG

Who is this?

DIANA

That looks like your grandmother
when she was real young.

DOUG

You look just like grandma.

DIANA

I do. Don't I?

Diana and Doug sit down around the box of photos and begin to rummage through them. Sarah joins them as they look through the photos of their past.

FADE TO BLACK