B R A N D O N

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EXT. MEDICAL CENTRE - MORNING

A blue sedan pulls into the empty car park of a small but modern doctors medical centre.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE

ALEX DEBAKKER - early 40's, a handsome, older than his years man sits forlorn on a surgery chair. His DOCTOR - mid 60's, freckles and a steely dememanor comes in with a file in one hand, he pulls up a chair.

DOCTOR

Alex, your scans have shown that you have multiple systems atrophy.. it is a degenerative neurological disorder. It degenerates cells within your brain and will cause problems with your balance, movement, bladder and blood pressure. for most patients, symptoms begin at around 50-55 but unfortunately, in your case, your cells are beginning to shrink right now. Medical science is working on a cure but as of now, I have to inform you that the disease is terminal. I am sorry Alex.

an awkward silence.

ALEX How many years do I have?

DOCTOR Its hard to say, it all depends on how your body reacts to -

ALEX

guess.

DOCTOR 8 years, maybe.

a beat.

fade out.

DOCTOR

Alex, Alex.

ALEX is in a daze.

ALEX Sorry, what doctor?

The DOCTOR signs and tears the prescription slip.

DOCTOR your prescription. Now unfortunately these pills cannot cure the illness, they are solely for minimizing the impacts of physical symptoms you may have and the depression. Take these to the chemist and give them the slip, it should already be fixed up.

ALEX

Ok, good, thank you doctor.

ALEX leaves the room briskly without staying for the usual handshake and small talk.

EXT. WHARF - OVERCAST DAY

we FOLLOW ALEX as he puts in earphones and jogs along the wharf. Several people run past him in either direction on bikes or with dogs or sometimes both.

AURA (V/O)

Alex, I am sorry about what happened. You can talk to me about it. We can work it out together, get a second opinion. I am working non stop right now and I cant even afford a babysitter. I have to work out how I'm going to pay for the mortgage and the car. Brandon doesn't even know what's going on with you, he needs you Alex. I'm sorry ok, is that what you wanted. I am so sorry for cheating on you. I deserve what you're doing to me But I CANNOT do this anymore.

we hear the line click.

A young, fit woman is coming towards ALEX with her two pet dogs. They try to avoid each other but turn the same way. ALEX has to jump over the dog, and nearly trips over the leash.

ALEX is out of breath and as other cyclists, runners move past him he lights up a cigarette. ALEX fumbles the cigarette and it drops into the lake. His hand is shaking.

EXT. APARTMENT BLOCK - DAWN

CRANE upwards and zoom in to the open window of a room where we here the tap running.

INT. BATHROOM

ALEX washes his face, he looks at his face and shaking had in the mirror, and sighs at his slowly eroding physical appearance.

INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS

MONTAGE

ALEX takes a multiplicity of pills and drugs. Some prescription, some not. He goes to clubs and makes out with a younger woman in a club bathroom.

INT. WOMAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The audience through the montage saw ALEX get continually more ill as it went on.

ALEX lies in bed with the same Woman from the club. He moves to leave the house quietly, and by the way he does it, we know that this probably isn't the first time he's done this.

Just as ALEX is leaving the room he stumbles on his shaking feet. His head and hands begins to shake unnaturally. ALEX almost falls but keeps his footing by grabbing his cane.

He leaves.

INT. BLUE SEDAN - DAY

ALEX drives, listens to his phone messages, mostly from AURA, his wife, he cancels most of them quickly. We then hear a different, much older voice message from a young kid, BRANDON and AURA together.

ALEX goes through a multiplicity of emotions as he here's the message. He feels melancholy, joy, and finally a sense of grief that he wont be there to see his son grow up.

We hear a child's voice though it is mainly inaudible as we CU on ALEX.

ALEX has tinges of tears around his eyes. He takes another pill as he turns into his old home.

The car is parked, not directly in front of the house but to the left, around 20 meters away, to not alert anyone inside.

ALEX inside the car is writing a letter with the paper up against the steering wheel.

He puts the paper into the envelope, layered with cash.

INT. DEBAKKER FAMILY HOUSE

FROM an open window on the first floor of the house, we see the blue sedan near the house.

BRANDON watches from the window, looking down at the disheveled car, he knows who this is.

EXT.DEBBAKKER HOUSE - FRONT YARD

ALEX steps out with an envelope and walks towards the front door.

He moves to slip the envelope under the front door when the door opens.

BRANDON is standing right at the door, holding the envelope and looking up at ALEX. ALEX is unsure of how to react.

BRANDON drops the envelope on the mat. grabs a hold of his father's leg and doesn't let go.

BRANDON Please don't go, please don't go.

ALEX fights back the tears.

ALEX

I cant stay.

ALEX Where's your mother?

BRANDON In the shower.

ALEX picks up and gives BRANDON the envelope.

ALEX

When she comes out, give her the envelope, don't look inside OK.

BRANDON Only if you stay.

ALEX I would if I could.

BRANDON Is it because of me?

ALEX no, I love you B. I just cant do it, not right now.

ALEX pats BRANDON on the forehead.

BRANDON Is it because of mom and that man.

ALEX What? ,How do you know about that?

BRANDON You where fighting in your room and I was at the door.

ALEX sighs at the realisation that BRANDON probably heard many of the other loud fights he had with AURA.

With the front door still ajar, we hear a voice from inside. It is AURA.

> AURA (O/S) Brandon, sweetie. I have to go, my shift starts soon. Honey?

ALEX is suddenly sparked into action.

ALEX

I have to go now Brandon. Remember the envelope okay.

ALEX picks him up and gives him the warmest of all hugs.

BRANDON

You need to stay.

ALEX moves to leave but BRANDON crawls onto his shoulders like in the photo.

ALEX continues to walk and tries to carefully let BRANDON off.

BRANDON Im not letting go.

ALEX looks back at BRANDON with a smile.

ALEX

Don't.

Cut to black.

Titles over Black Title Card - B R A N D O N

THE END.