

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

TITLE

Written by
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(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

I 'VE LIVED 400,000 TIMES

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FIRST DRAFT

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CONTINUED:

FADE IN:

1 MONTAGE - POV SHOTS OF A PARK IN THE RAIN SET TO MUSIC

(As we progress, we only hear the narrator's voice.)

NARRATION (V.O.)

According to ancient knowledge our soul gets to be reborn 400,000 times... This next life is my 400,000th time that I get to live... and this last time I get to be in a human form... again. I've got a muddy recollection on how it's like to be human because the last time I was around I think I was a butterfly.

We see a colorful butterfly perched momentarily at a bench as it flies away.

NARRATION (V.O.) (cont'd)

Honestly, I don't know what I'll be doing with so many moments in this human life form because as a butterfly I get to cherish every moment since I have only days to live on.

We see important transitions of a butterfly's life: transitioning into a full-pledged butterfly, having a mate (a 3-day love affair), and death.

NARRATION (V.O.) (cont'd)

Oh, I now remember... I was a dog in my recent life. I must have done something right for me to deserve a human life form.

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT./EXT. HOUSE/ EXT. STREET - DAY

We see a dog save a man stricken by a seizure by calling for help, by barking incessantly at pedestrians outside the man's house. The dog leads a passerby to the man's residence.

CUT BACK TO:

3 EXT. PARK - DAY

NARRATION (V.O.)

Did you know in picking a kind of life to live, we pick a suitcase from a pile of suitcases?

(Note: Actions take place as the narrator describes the scenes that are going to happen.)

NARRATION (V.O.) (cont'd)

And just like that as we pick a suitcase we take from the pile, we get a glimpse of our life: (In this case, Freddie's life, the narrator.) The gender we will have, (We see a male gender from infant to adulthood.) if we are rich or poor (We see a well-off lifestyle of a teenage boy.), our health - oh no, not mental illness! (In Freddie's panic, he chooses a mother who is well-to-do and a father with good-looks. We also see here the 6 grandparents that Freddie chooses for himself.), and we get to meet our great love, our soul mate (no scene description). Sometimes we end up with our soul mate and our special someone can become our life partner but there are also times when our great love is just our great love. My story starts here...

FLASH FORWARD
TO:

4 INT. RESTAURANT BAR - NIGHT

We now see Freddie is at his teens as a college student. Freddie is fair-complexioned and good-looking.

Freddie experiences a love-at-first-sight kind of moment at a restaurant bar with YVETTE, a beautiful and popular singer.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

Have you ever experienced an intuition that comes true?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(Note: Again, scenes unfold as Freddie narrates...)

FREDDIE (V.O.) (cont'd)
As I dressed that evening--

5 INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Freddie is getting ready wearing a nice polo shirt with nice matching brown Capri pants.

FREDDIE (V.O.)
My thoughts resemble the idea that she would like me too when she gets to meet me and the beautiful thing about this is when this actually happens.

CUT BACK TO:

6 INT. RESTAURANT BAR - NIGHT

Freddie and Yvette get acquainted with one another as Freddie says his name and Yvette says Freddie's name with affection.

FREDDIE (V.O.)
What is more romantic is to fall in-love slowly and unexpectedly. I didn't know then what to do with what I felt for her. I was ambushed by a feeling and I think she was too.

We see several nights as Freddie goes to see Yvette sing at the restaurant bar. We could see the affinity developing between them.

7 INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - DAWN

Freddie lies awake on his bed and he is smiling by himself.

With an inspired look on his face, he pens a poem and several more on this same night.

8 INT. YVETTE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Another scene slides into frame.

We get a glimpse of Yvette writing a song, also having a similar inspired look as Freddie's.

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

9 INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Freddie is looking for his airplane seat...

FREDDIE (V.O.)

I don't know if events are pre-determined but I missed my chance with Yvette when I left for a vacation in Greece and only got to return home several years later.

10 INT. RESTAURANT BAR - NIGHT

We see Yvette trying to look for Freddie among the crowd during several gigs and don't find him every single time.

Silence.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

This I think is when it all started, my relationships not getting to last. When I was a kid I get things for free, a ride...

11 EXT. CARNIVAL, MERRY-GO-ROUND - NIGHT

Freddie is 6 years old waiting in line to enter the merry-go-round ride with a nanny. As he is about to give his payment, a female ticket personnel checks him out.

TICKET PERSONNEL

It's okay, the ride is for free for you.

The ticket personnel give Freddie a wink.

A delighted Freddie proceeds to the ride.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. PARK - DAY

A short line of children leads to an ice-cream truck...

FREDDIE (V.O.)

An ice cream...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ICE CREAM WOMAN VENDOR
This is for you, kid, for free.

The vendor pats Freddie's 6-year-old head and gives him the ice cream.

6-YEAR-OLD FREDDIE
Thank you, miss!

CUT TO:

13 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

FREDDIE (V.O.)
And then there's the adoration...

A female NURSE places a thermometer inside young Freddie's mouth.

NURSE
When you're all grown-up, come back for me. I'll be waiting for you to marry me.

Freddie gives the nurse a shy smile after the thermometer is removed from his mouth.

The nurse checks the reading on the thermometer.

NURSE (cont'd)
You're fever is going down. I'll check on you again later.

The nurse exits the room.

MONTAGE

14 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

FREDDIE (V.O.)
When I returned to the Philippines, I saw from a magazine stand that Yvette has moved on to marry someone else.

Freddie momentarily glances upon a magazine stand and his eyes dart back to it. He walks up to the stand, his look is stunned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FREDDIE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Years pass and so did my lovers. One
left me for a lesbian...

DISSOLVE TO:

15 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Freddie and a woman (both in their twenties) are walking
towards a house.

FREDDIE (CONFRONTATIONAL)
So who is this guy you are not
telling me about?

Suddenly, the house door opens and a petite-looking woman
emerges from it.

20-SOMETHING WOMAN
It's a she.

Freddie and the 20-something woman both looks at the petite-
looking woman at the same time and look back at each other.

FREDDIE (V.O.)
Basically, I get dumped because my
former girlfriends could not handle
my mental illness.

We see a series of condo doors being shut by different women
on different occasions (Valentine's Day, Halloween,
Christmas, and on a rainy day) while Freddie stands on the
opposite end of the door.

Freeze on the last frame.

FREDDIE (V.O.) (cont'd)
I have learned that romantic love is
definitely not unconditional love.

CUT TO:

16 A (A-C) EXT. PARK - DAY

On a rainy day, Freddie is seated at a bench with a raincoat
on. Freddie is now in his late 30s. He is simply staring at
the view.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FREDDIE (V.O.)

I'm supposed to forget about this but I saw memories in my recent past life as a human and that I did not do any good. So significant are my bad deeds that I am in this fix. I was also a man as a human. I was a very active man so much so that you could say I was a polygamous man, a polygamous attorney.

FLASHBACK

17 INT. COURTHOUSE LOBBY - DAY

The lobby is filled with 7 male attorneys. Some are smoking cigarettes while the others are having their snacks.

An attorney near the window who is in the middle of smoking a cigarette is conversing with another attorney..

ATTY. WITH A CIGARETTE

Hey, does your client need another lawyer to handle the arrangement of her properties? Man, Mrs. Robles must be so stinking rich now that her husband is gone.

ATTY.# 2

Sorry, pal, just me.

ATTY.# 3

Robles, Robles Land whose family owns most of the prime lots in this city?

Attorney # 2 lights a cigarette.

ATTY.# 2

Yup, that's the one.

A lawyer in his early 30s finishing a sandwich and is seated adjacent attorney # 3 clocks this. He then leaves the lobby and enters an office.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

That man is me, by the way.

18 INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

A female secretary answers a phone call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SECRETARY
Attorney Esguerra's office..

Attorney Esguerra stops by at his secretary's post.

ATTY. ESGUERRA
Could you please find out the first
name of the Robles widower? The one
whose husband just died... Thanks.

The attorney then proceeds to his desk. When seated, he
strums his fingers on the desk and takes down the picture
frame of a young woman on his desk.

TIME LAPSE:

We now see Attorney Esguerra is busy typing on his laptop
but gets interrupted when his secretary comes in to his
office space.

SECRETARY
I not only got her first name but
also her picture and some info about
her, her profile.

The secretary places the documents on the desk, the picture
on top.

Attorney Esguerra gets the photo and studies it.

ATTY. ESGUERRA
Do you have other pictures of her?
She seems to be..

Attorney Esguerra doesn't have the word he wants to say.

SECRETARY
Plain-looking?

Attorney Esguerra nods in agreement.

SECRETARY (cont'd)
She looks pretty much the same on all
the other pictures so-

ATTY. ESGUERRA
Okay, never mind.

With that, the secretary exits the room.

19 EXT. CAR/STADIUM - DAY

Attorney Esguerra parks his car outside a stadium.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

From then on, like a thief I "cased" her... I found out where she plays her badminton sport when I couldn't join the club she is in, the club being an exclusive women's group.

20 INT. BADMINTON COURT - DAY

FREDDIE (V.O.)

I waited for 3 months before I asked her out on a dinner date. I had to make sure I was the only guy planning to make a move on her. Well, I told off the other guys she and I are exclusively dating already. Don't forget I went to law school, people!

At the court's corner, we see a guy exiting after having talked to Attorney Esguerra.

Mrs. Robles is currently playing badminton with a female opponent at the background.

FREDDIE (V.O.) (cont'd)

And aside from that... I had to break up with my longtime girlfriend. That didn't exactly happen... My girlfriend found text message conversations between me and Mrs. Sheila Robles. Yes, her first name is Sheila and mine is Duke, I was Attorney Duke Esguerra.

RETURN TO:

16 B EXT. PARK - DAY

It is still raining and Freddie is still seated on the bench.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

What happened was I didn't marry for love and this led affairs with other beautiful women.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FREDDIE (V.O.) (cont'd)
These beautiful women with whom I
eventually broke their hearts are the
ones that broke my heart today, this
lifetime.

CUT TO:

21 INT. GYM - DAY

Freddie breaks into a sweat as he runs on a treadmill.

FREDDIE (V.O.)
This karma is a killer. No matter how
I whip myself up for wellness, I
attain no success.

MONTAGE

We see Freddie with acupuncture needles on him..

Freddie consulting different 3 male barrio doctors in the
Philippines;

And Freddie is having an Indian ceremony done by 30 Indian
astrologers based on his birth chart..

We see Freddie in a resigned manner take an anti-depressant
tablet.

AS WE RETURN
TO:

16 C EXT. PARK - DAY

We see Freddie's back as he is seated on the bench. He
slowly gets up and starts to walk into the street.

FREDDIE (V.O.)
I tend to worry the quality of life I
will live. Shall I wait and pick a
mate in my 50s when I'm well-
established? How much chronic sadness
should I endure with my clinical
depression until it is over?

22 EXT. STREET - DAY

The rain is heavily pouring and a car breaks down in front of Freddie. Smoke comes out of the hood of the car and an old lady begins to step out of the car.

FREDDIE (SLIGHTLY SHOUTING)
You don't have to get out of your
car, it's pouring out here.

The lady upon hearing Freddie's cautionary words shuts her car door. She rolls down her car window instead.

OLD LADY
What should I do?

FREDDIE
I think your car overheated. Pop up
the hood and let me look at it.

The lady does just that and the car hood is now open.

Freddie moves toward the car hood and carelessly pried it open (the hook did not attach to the latch properly), letting a huge amount of smoke out.

As the smoke cleared a bit, we hear a sudden loud thud.

Freddie is now sprawled on the street, unconscious.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

A thud was all I heard and I just had
the feeling it was the answer to my
prayers about my illness, a window of
hope to my 400 thousandth time of
existence.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

23 INT. HOSPITAL CLINIC - DAY

A male doctor in his 60s leaning on a desk while standing faces a now 45-year-old Freddie. Freddie is still very much a looker even with age.

DOCTOR
No symptoms of depression like
insomnia, loss of appetite, negative
thoughts...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FREDDIE
None of that, doc...

DOCTOR
It seems here your amnesia forgot all about your clinical depression. Isn't life ironic?

The doctor optimistically smiles at Freddie.

FREDDIE
So -- Before I was suffering from this? Poor kid...

DOCTOR
Yes, but look at you now... You regained how to read, how to write... You're even a savant in math! You went through a tough time back there and you made it!

The doctor gives Freddie a pat on the back and Freddie begins to leave the clinic.

CUT TO:

24 INT. FREDDIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Freddie uncovers his journals about Yvette in his closet and starts reading them.

CUT TO:

25 INT. RESTAURANT BAR - NIGHT

Freddie approaches the bar area.

A woman turns around facing Freddie, it's Yvette and she is surprised to see Freddie.

YVETTE
Hey, how have you been?!

FREDDIE
I'm alright.

YVETTE (IN A TEASING MANNER)
Just alright...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FREDDIE

I'm really good. How about you, have
you had an annulment by any chance?
(jokingly)

YVETTE

No.

Freddie sadly turns his face away..

YVETTE (cont'd)

Not yet, it's in process.

Upon hearing this, Freddie looks up at Yvette in a
positively surprised manner.

Yvette on the other hand breaks into a smile.

FADE OUT

THE END