

REALIZATION

by

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INT. A DARK BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Two people are sleeping in bed. Rain is gently tapping against the bedroom window. The people sleeping are the couple RICK (29) and LUCY (27). On Rick's nightstand a telephone starts ringing. The screen says 'mom'.

Rick wakes up from the ringing phone, he is startled by this sudden loud noise. He looks around in confusion and then picks it up.

RICK

Hello?

His mother ANNE(60) answers, she is panicking and crying judging by the sound of her voice.

ANNE

Rick? He's gone, I couldn't stop him.

RICK

What?

ANNE

I have no idea where he went. What if he hurts himself? He's been confused for such a long time.

RICK

Did he hurt you?

ANNE

No, of course not. He would never do that.

RICK

Any idea which way he went?

ANNE

I saw him running into the fields, he doesn't know what he's doing.

RICK

Don't worry mom, everything is going to be alright.

Rick hangs up. For a second he watches Lucy, she is still asleep. He decides not to wake her. Without getting himself dressed he runs downstairs. He is obviously in a hurry. He runs out of his house and jumps into his car. With high speed he drives away.

INT./EXT. RICK'S CAR. NIGHT.

Rick is driving on the highway way too fast. Inside his car we see him biting his nails, he seems very anxious.

Sometime later he drives through many locations. We see empty streets, roads and parks. He looks around frequently, he is looking for someone.

EXT. A REMOTE LAKE. NIGHT.

Suddenly Rick hits the brakes. His car stops at the small lake. It is surrounded by grass and trees. In the distance we see an old man in his pyjama's clumsily walking towards the edge of the lake.

The old man is Rick's father HENRY(64), he is suffering from an early stage of Alzheimer's disease. Henry is standing on a grassy hill at the edge. He plans to jump into the lake and drown himself.

Rick jumps out of his car and starts walking towards his father. He starts calling out to him.

RICK

Dad, what are you doing?

HENRY

If I jump in now, it will probably be over soon.

Rick now stands about ten feet from his father. He is afraid to come any closer. Henry might hurt himself when he comes too close.

RICK

Dad, it's me Rick. Mom is worried sick about you. What are you doing at the lake?

HENRY

I'm sick, son.

RICK

I know, dad. But that doesn't have to mean it's the end.

HENRY

Do you have any idea how Alzheimer's works? Your brain just rots away in your skull. You become a lifeless shell without a soul. One day I won't recognize my own wife and children anymore. And after that you just stop eating and die.

RICK

Suicide is not the answer to any of this.

HENRY

At first I just forgot things. I just thought I was getting a little older. But when they diagnosed me, I saw how the final years of my life were set in stone. I'm still sharp enough to see that at least.

RICK

Please don't do this. Do you have any idea what this would do to mom? What this would do to me?

HENRY

What does it matter? If it doesn't end now, it'll be in just a few short years.

RICK

Please don't think about things like that.

HENRY

My thinking is exactly the problem, Rick.

RICK

Think about your wife and children
(beat)
and your grandchildren...

After Rick says this, Henry looks at his son with surprise. A small sparkle comes from Henry's eyes that people haven't seen before in a long time.

RICK

Lucy is pregnant, dad. We wanted to tell you and mom very soon.

HENRY

A grandchild?

RICK

Yes dad, you're gonna be a grandfather.

Henry stares down into the lake for a second. He is processing the news he just received. After a few seconds he takes a few steps away from the edge of the lake.

HENRY

(mumbling in himself)
Grandfather?

RICK

You want to give that all up now? There are so many things to enjoy in your life. And yes, you're gonna die. You don't have that many years left. But please just make those the best years you've ever had.

Rick now slowly approaches his father. He reaches out to him.

RICK - CONTINUES

Come on, dad. Let's go home. Mom is waiting for you.

Henry takes Rick's hand. Both men walk back towards Rick's car and get in.

INT. RICK'S CAR. CONTINUES.

HENRY

If it's a boy, you name him after me right?

Rick smiles briefly.

RICK

Of course, dad.

HENRY

I can't believe I tried to drown myself in that lake.

RICK

It wouldn't have worked. That lake isn't even two feet deep.

EXT. ON THE SIDE OF THE LAKE. CONTINUES.

The car drives off into the night.

THE END