IT MAKES YOU WONDER

BY GRANT CAMERON

Grant Cameron Gwc.dundeefc@hotmail.co.uk

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment has an old fashioned feel to it.

The furniture in the front room is about twenty years old, ornaments surround the coal fire, pictures hang in the front room...family pictures.

BETTY McGUIRE comes through from the kitchen, 75 years old with curly white hair, thick rimmed glasses and a petite build...looking good for her age.

She walks up to the chair, coffee in hand and sits down, placing the coffee on the small table, grabbing the remote control for the television.

Turning on the TV, she turns it onto quiz shows, watching them calmly.

The sound of the front door is heard opening but she doesn't flinch...she is too deaf to hear the front door opening.

She sees the door to the front room open, however...and in enters CHRISTOPHER McGUIRE, 16 years old, medium build and carrying a school bag on his back, to go along with his school clothes that he wears.

CHRISTOPHER

Hi Gran.

Christopher dumps his bag, walks up to his Gran and kisses her on the cheek.

BETTY Christopher, I didn't know you were coming up today.

Christopher cant help but laugh, sitting down on the couch opposite.

CHRISTOPHER I come down every Tuesday Gran...for my tea.

BETTY Oh hell, I haven't got anything in for you.

She is quite upset about it, her face full of guilt but Christopher just shrugs it off, standing up.

CHRISTOPHER Don't worry...do you have a shopping list. Yeah.

Betty reaches into her pocket, pulling out the list...a piece of paper so small that it is hard to write anything on it, yet she has a list of five to eight items, in the smallest of writings.

She hands it to Christopher, he looks at the list, checking everything out.

CHRISTOPHER I'll head to the supermarket to get these, I shouldn't be long.

BETTY I'll go with you dear, make sure you get everything.

Betty gets up from her chair but Christopher puts his hand out, stopping her.

CHRISTOPHER Don't be daft, it's freezing out there, you'll catch your death.

BETTY

You sure?

CHRISTOPHER Yeah, I wont be long.

Christopher hugs Betty and leaves the house.

INT. SUPERMARKET - LATER

Christopher walks through the large supermarket, going up and down the aisle's while pushing a trolley.

He stops, picks up a pack of bacon, checking it over...he tosses it into the trolley.

He then turns when he sees a woman, SARAH, in her 20s and also pushing a trolley.

SARAH Hi Christopher, what are you doing here?

CHRISTOPHER Just a little shopping for my Gran. SARAH Aw, that's good of you. (Beat) How is your Gran? CHRISTOPHER She's doing fine. SARAH I'm glad, you give her my best. CHRISTOPHER

I will.

Sarah smiles, walks off down the aisle.

Christopher watches for a moment and continues shopping.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

The front door opens, Christopher walks in, a shopping bag in his hand.

He closes the door, walks into the front room.

INT. FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He enters the front room, looks around...no Betty.

CHRISTOPHER

Gran!

He waits for an answer, doesn't get one...however, Betty emerges from the kitchen, her face full of joy at the sight of Christopher.

> BETTY Christopher, I didn't know you were coming today.

> CHRISTOPHER What, I was just here and hour ago.

BETTY No, I've not seen you today.

Christopher is suddenly confused, not sure what to think of her comments.

CHRISTOPHER Gran, I was just here. BETTY I cant remember you being here. (Beat) Why are you here?

CHRISTOPHER I come every Tuesday...for my tea.

BETTY Oh hell, I haven't got anything in for you.

Christopher's face is full of confusion and anguish...He has no idea what is wrong.

BETTY Let me go and see if I can find anything for you.

Betty turns, heading into the kitchen.

Christopher watches, he cant wash the confusion off his face. He looks down at the shopping he has, his face turning from confusion to worry.

INT. DOCTORS - DAY

The waiting room is partially full, people waiting to get seen by the doctor.

Sitting at the far end is Christopher, along With Betty and Christopher's parents, TOM and SANDRA McGUIRE, both in their late 40s, both have worried expressions on their faces.

Tom has a look of a caring son, holding Betty's hand tightly, them all waiting patiently.

The door opens, the doctor steps out into the waiting room.

DOCTOR Betty McGuire?

Tom takes a deep breath and stands up, helping Betty get to her feet. Sandra follows but Christopher just sits there, his face full of concern.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - LATER

The doctor sits behind his desk, Tom, Sandra and Betty sit opposite...they await the diagnosis.

DOCTOR I have received the tests from the hospital and have had a chance to go over them.

TOM

Please, doctor, what is wrong with my mother?

DOCTOR The tests we did on your mother were to see what like her memory was and how quickly she can react to problems. (Beat) From what these tests have shown, it seems that she is suffering from AD...Alzheimer's disease.

Both Tom and Sandra are shocked, Betty not so much...she doesn't even look like she is listening.

SANDRA Alzheimer's?

Yeah.

DOCTOR

(Beat) The good news is, we have seem to have caught it in the early stages in what we like to call PreDementia.

TOM What does that mean?

DOCTOR It means that, with the right medication,we can slow down the process. (Beat) However, in a few years, she may need permanent care and she will not be able to live on her own.

Tom and Sandra are clearly shocked by this result, so much so that Tom squeezes Betty's hand ever so tightly...He doesn't want to let go.

INT. WAITING ROOM - LATER

Christopher sits, keeping his head down and not wanting to look up at everyone in the waiting room.

The door opens and Christopher finally plucks up the courage to look up, seeing Tom and Sandra emerging from the door, with Betty.

He stands up, waiting for them to reach him and they do...He stares at them, in hope.

CHRISTOPHER

What did he say?

They look at him, their face full of sorrow...his hope fades and he now looks worried at what they are about to say next.

EXT.APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

SUPER: 2 YEARS LATER

The entire block has scaffolding on it, covering every square inch of the block...not an easy place to be living just now.

The door to the apartments open and Tom comes out, carrying a bag and closely followed by Betty.

They walk down the steps, onto the street and Tom shoves the bag into the car, turning to face Betty.

BETTY Son, I am perfectly capable of looking after myself.

TOM

Mum, you cant. (Beat) With work being done all along the street, it is hard for your care worker to come in and help you.

BETTY

What care worker?

TOM

The one that comes in every day and helps you with everything. You cant remember but she does.

BETTY I don't need a care worker, I can look after myself.

TOM You cant, you'll forget things like turning on the cooker or forgetting to lock your door. (MORE) TOM (cont'd) (Beat) You'll be much safer staying with me for a few weeks.

BETTY Nothing wrong with my memory, I'm fine.

TOM

OK mum.

Betty gets in the car, Tom cant help but show his frustration by slamming the car door shut. He gets in and drives off, along the street.

INT. MCGUIRE RESIDENCE - EVENING

Unlike Betty's apartment, this house has a much more modern feel to it with everything looking almost brand new.

The front door opens and Christopher walks in, now 18 and walks into the front room, where Tom sits.

CHRISTOPHER Hi dad, where's Gran?

TOM Your mum's getting her unpacked upstairs and gonna run a bath for her.

Christopher nods, walks over to the couch and sits down. Tom doesn't take his eyes off him.

> TOM Chris, I'm sorry I put you in this position, I know it's unfair to you.

CHRISTOPHER Dad, it's fine, you know I'd do anything for Gran.

TOM Yeah but you shouldn't have to look after her. (Beat) It's just, with us being at work, we need someone here with your Gran.

CHRISTOPHER Yeah and I'll do it.

TOM Good, it wont be for long. Christopher just nods at Tom, a smile to put his father at ease.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darkness fills the bedroom, the only light coming from the television that plays host to wrestling.

Christopher lies in bed, sitting up but under the covers, watching the wrestling and munching on a packet of crisps...

BANG!

Christopher turns, hearing the sound of a door bang shut. He looks at his door, the light from the hallway, shining through the cracks...

And footsteps, not that loud, walking along the hall.

They stop outside his door, he stares at it nervously...and then it opens, a head peering in the bedroom.

It is Betty, not wearing her glasses but looking around the room, she is clearly confused.

Christopher turns, keeping his eyes on the TV still knowing that she is there, looking around...and then she is gone.

The door closes, the footsteps are heard and a door is banged shut again.

Christopher continues watching the TV but his face is full of guilt...he didn't go and help her.

INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

Christopher stands in the kitchen, placing bread into the toaster, pushing the bread down which turns the toaster on.

He turns, glancing up at the time on the clock ... 9:30am.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Christopher walks along the hallway, stopping outside a bedroom.

He knocks on the door.

BETTY (O.S.) In a minute. CHRISTOPHER C'mon Gran, I've put toast on for you.

BETTY (O.S.) Yeah, I'm coming.

Christopher smiles, turns and walks back along the hallway.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Christopher sits, alone at the table and reading the newspaper.

He lowers the paper, looking at the toast that sits on the table.

He glances up at the time once again ... 10:00am.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Christopher walks along the hallway again, this time with a worried look on his face.

He stops outside the bedroom, knocks on the door.

BETTY (O.S.)

Yeah.

CHRISTOPHER Gran, what are you doing in there?

BETTY (O.S.)

Nothing.

CHRISTOPHER C'mon, your toast will be cold.

BETTY (O.S.) Yeah, I'm coming.

Christopher doesn't smile this time, he is unsure if she will be on her way.

Yet he still turns, and makes his way back along the hall.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Christopher sits but, this time, Betty is sitting beside him, eating her toast and drinking coffee.

He glances up at the clock...11:00am.

Christopher seems surprised by that time, Betty looks confused, turns and faces Christopher.

BETTY What bus do I get to go to the hospital from here?

Christopher is confused by that questions...he has to think about it for a moment.

CHRISTOPHER What do you want to go to the hospital for?

BETTY To see your dad of course.

Christopher is surprised and full of confusion at what she said.

CHRISTOPHER

But he isn't...

His face suddenly turns to realization at what she is saying...she thinks he is Tom.

He thinks for a moment, trying to think of something to say.

CHRISTOPHER Uh...I'm not really sure. It's not visiting time just now, we might go up later.

BETTY

Right, OK son.

Betty continues eating her toast, not having a care in the world but Christopher stares at her, sadness fills his face.

INT. WILLOWS CARE HOME - DAY

SUPER: 2 YEARS LATER

The care home is rather large, a hall separating the east wing to the west wing.

The door opens and Christopher walks in, followed closely by Sandra.

They stop as soon as they get in, signing a guest book that sits at the front door. They finish, look around and walk through the hall.

SANDRA

Do you want to check the room and see if your Gran is there?

CHRISTOPHER No, she'll be sitting in the dining room, playing cards on her own.

SANDRA Yeah, most probably.

They enter the east wing, walking past two chairs that play host to two elderly women, just sitting there, looking lifeless.

Christopher is shocked by this but shrugs it off, following Sandra into the dining area.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sandra and Christopher enter, noticing all the elderly people sitting around, all of them looking rather ill and lifeless.

They notice Betty at the back, the most liveliest person in the room, sitting at a table, playing solitaire with her cards.

Christopher walks towards her, followed closely by Sandra but she fails to notice them.

SANDRA

Betty.

Betty looks up, sees them, almost reducing herself to tears.

BETTY

Oh...hi.

Betty gets up from the table, hugs Sandra tight...not wanting to let go.

BETTY Are you here to take me home?

Sandra looks upset, she releases her hug from Betty, looks at her.

SANDRA

I cant take you home.

BETTY

Why not?

SANDRA Because, you have to stay here just now.

BETTY Oh, there's nothing wrong with me.

SANDRA I know but Tom is working hard to find you someplace better to stay. (Beat) You shouldn't be here for long.

Sandra and Christopher sit down, followed by Betty, her face full of thunder...she really doesn't want to be here.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Sandra and Christopher sit there, opposite Betty and finding it hard to get a conversation...she just plays with her cards.

SANDRA I believe your sisters came up to see you today.

BETTY

When?

SANDRA Earlier...about 12.

BETTY I never saw them.

SANDRA They were here, their names were in the quest book.

BETTY Well, they didn't come and see me.

SANDRA They did now. You just cant remember but they were here.

BETTY No, they never come and see me...neither does Larry!

SANDRA

What?

BETTY You know what I'm talking about.

CHRISTOPHER Gran, Grandad died six years ago.

BETTY Is that what he's telling people. (Beat) I cant remember who told me but someone told me that he was playing away with some woman.

SANDRA

What woman?

BETTY

I don't know but that's what I've heard.

Both Sandra and Christopher are shocked by this, Sandra cant help but smile...if she doesn't, she will cry.

SANDRA Who told you this?

BETTY I have my sources.

CHRISTOPHER

Who though?

BETTY I cant remember but when I do, you'll be the first to know.

Betty goes back to playing her cards, Christopher and Sandra watch with shocked expressions.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Tom sits in the small office, in front of a desk where a care worker sits.

TOM I just need to know how long it'll be until she gets into another care home.

CARE WORKER It really is hard to say, we managed to get her temporary stay at the Willows and she's currently on the waiting list for two or three care homes which you have chosen. TOM

Every time I go and see her, she gives me a hard time about how much she hates it there and she has gotten out a couple of times. (Beat) I'd feel safer if she was in a better home.

CARE WORKER I understand that, I'm working hard to get the best care home suitable for your mother. (Beat) With her Alzheimer's, she is definitely top priority because she cant stay on her own.

TOM But how long do you reckon?

CARE WORKER Well, I will try and get her in within the next couple of months but it could take a year at most to get her in.

Tom is clearly unhappy by that, his face full of disappointment and hurt.

INT. MCGUIRE RESIDENCE - MORNING

SUPER: 1 YEAR LATER

Tom stands in the downstairs hallway, putting a tie on and looking in the mirror as he does so...

Christopher comes downstairs, his leather jacket on. He grabs his baseball cap and puts it on, Tom turns to face him.

TOM Where are you off to?

CHRISTOPHER I've got nothing on today, thought I'd go and see Gran.

TOM That's good of you. (Beat) You haven't seen her in a while. CHRISTOPHER Yeah with college and that. This is the best chance I'll get to see her.

TOM Good. Even though she wont remember, tell her I'll be down tomorrow.

CHRISTOPHER

I will.

Christopher leaves the house and Tom returns to putting his tie on.

INT. TURNER HOUSE - LATER

The front door opens and Christopher walks into the foyer, walking up to the desk.

He signs the guest book, puts hand lotion on and rubs it in, heading for the stairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Christopher comes in through the door, which closes and locks upon closing.

He walks along the hall, stopping outside a room with a name on the front...

BETTY MCGUIRE

Christopher knocks on the door, waits for a reply.

BETTY (O.S.)

Come in.

Christopher opens the door, sees Betty sitting on her bed.

CHRISTOPHER

Hi Gran.

BETTY Hi, you just caught me, I was just about to go out.

CHRISTOPHER

Really. (Beat) Lets go across the room and have a cup of coffee.

BETTY

Yeah, OK.

Betty then gets up and heads out the room with Christopher.

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

In the room, the TV is on, elderly women sit and watch the TV, looking a little livelier.

Christopher enters the room with Betty, who quickly turns and looks at one of the women.

BETTY

Hi.

ELDERLY WOMAN Hi, who's this you've got here?

BETTY

This is...

Betty suddenly looks confused, she turns looking at Christopher.

BETTY God, I cant remember your name.

CHRISTOPHER It's Christopher.

BETTY Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER Your Grandson.

BETTY (Realizing) Oh of course, I couldn't remember for a second.

Betty laughs, walks towards a table but Christopher doesn't share that laughter...in fact, he looks rather upset.

INT. ROOM - LATER

They sit at the table, Betty drinks her coffee and eats a biscuit, Christopher also has a biscuit but has orange juice to go with it.

She finishes her biscuit, wipes the crumbs off the table and looks at Christopher.

BETTY Have you spoken to my mum?

CHRISTOPHER

Your mum?

BETTY I haven't been down to see her yet, I'll have to see her some time.

CHRISTOPHER No, I haven't seen her.

Betty nods, continues to drink her coffee.

Christopher just stares at her, his anguish showing in his face.

INT. HALL - LATER

Christopher and Betty come out of the room, walking along the hall and stopping outside her bedroom.

She turns and faces him.

CHRISTOPHER I've gotta get going OK but I'll be down again sometime.

BETTY

Yeah, OK.

CHRISTOPHER And my dad said he'll be down tomorrow.

BETTY Who's your dad?

CHRISTOPHER Tom...your son.

BETTY (Laughs) Oh, of course.

Christopher is upset by the things she is saying but gives her a hug, kissing her on the cheek.

CHRISTOPHER You sure your gonna be OK.

BETTY I'll be fine. Might nip out and go and see my mum. CHRISTOPHER Uh...yeah, OK. See you later Gran.

BETTY

Bye son.

Betty walks into her room, closing the door behind her.

Christopher watches, clearly hurt and upset by the situation which is shown in his face.

He turns, makes his way down the hallway, looking sad at leaving her.

CHRISTOPHER (V.O.) It makes you wonder...how long will it be before she even recognizes me or forgets the family. (Beat) When will the day come when she thinks I am a stranger. (Beat) It makes you wonder what you want to happen first...your Gran to forget who you are or for your Gran to die...It makes you wonder.

Christopher reaches the end of the hall, turns and heads downstairs.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPER:

Alzheimer's disease affects most people over the age of 65.

In 2006, it was estimated that 26.6 Million people were affected by Alzheimer's.

FADE OUT.