One Day At A Time

A Short Film

by

Sam Al

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SYNOPSIS

'One day at a time' is a short film about a man who relives in a single day, the time he spent with his girlfriend. However as the story continues, it is clear that out of guilt the man has been forced to imagine a different reality.

CAST & CREW

PRODUCER - JESSE ALGRANTI

WRITER - SAM AL

DIRECTOR - SAM AL

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - ARTHUR MULHERN

EQUIPMENT - JULIAN SCIASCIA

ACTOR (Sean) - TOM GREAVES

ACTOR (Romily) - GEORGIA MAGUIRE

LOCATIONS

Notting Hill

Shepherds Bush

TITLE: ONE DAY AT A TIME

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON, EARLY MORNING

A camera movement down the center of a deserted road. The movement gets faster and faster. In the far distance, a blur of something we cannot yet make out.

CUT TO:

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM

A close up on a young mans face as he wakes and takes a gulp of air. This is Sean (26) and we stay on his face until his breathing slows down.

Sitting on the side of his bed, he reaches for his watch which lays on top of *The Trial* (A Kafka Novel)

A Vacant look on his face. He looks over to the other side of the bed. Nothing

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON

He walks down the road. He notices a large red stain on the pavement and continues on.

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Holding a muffin, he picks up his coffee and heads out the door. He turns the corner, where he knocks into a girl, spilling his coffee all over her.

SEAN

Shit! I am so sorry.

ROMILY

No, no, my fault, i was attempting to read and walk at the same time.

Romily uses the edge of her book (Kafka - The Trial) to clean off coffee. Sean notices her shoes.

SEAN

Its all over your shoes, i am so sorry

Romily looks down and sighs, then looks back up at Sean and smiles.

ROMILY

Just the beginning of the week

Sean stands awkwardly.

SEAN

I am sorry

ROMILY

Really its fine, these shoes pretty much cost the same as that muffin. So I think I can forgive you.

Sean sees an opportunity and smiles to himself.

SEAN

Really?

ROMILY

Sure..? Why not?

SEAN

Well, is just that i was going to offer you a coffee, but if i am forgiven, do i really need to?

ROMILY

Well, I said I think, so your not in the clear yet.

SEAN

Would you like a coffee?

ROMILY

No thanks

Sean looks to his muffin and raises it.

SEAN

A muffin?

She shakes her head.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Ok

He gives up and looks away. Romily allows herself a little smile.

SEAN (CONT'D)

So dinner tonight would be stupid.

ROMILY

No

Sean registers her word and looks disappointed.

CONTINUED: (2)

ROMILY (CONT'D)

Dinner tonight would be great.

This comes out of left field.

SEAN

Cool, wanna meet here at 6:30 that good for you?

Romily nods.

ROMILY

Bye

Romily turns around and starts walking away.

SEAN

Bye, (shouts)You're gonna come right

ROMILY

Yup

SEAN

Swear on your life

ROMILY

No.

Sean confused.

SEAN

Swear on my life

ROMILY

Yes

He laughs to himself and in a euphoric state watches her get on the bus and go.

He looks down, there is a pool of brown coffee on the pavement, he looks at his watch, it reads 8:29am. A slow blink of a shutter and now the watch reads 6:29pm. The sun is going down.

Sean looks around for Romily but she is nowhere to be seen. He has a large bunch of blue flowers in his hand. He laughs, resigned, he knew she wouldn't come. He checks his watch again, as the seconds hand clicks onto 6:30pm he notices the puddle on the floor now looks like blood. A little confused he looks up and there stands Romily smiling at him from two metres away.

SEAN

Flowers

He hands her the flowers.

CONTINUED: (3)

ROMILY

I am allergic

SEAN

Oh,,ok, well

He drops the flowers against a black wall and turns to Romily and laughs.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You really allergic..

ROMILY

No

Sean frowns at her

ROMILY (CONT'D)

Haha, we can pick them up on the way back.

SEAN

they will be stolen

ROMILY

No they wont, when flowers are on the floor, that usually means someone has died, and no one is gonna steal from a dead person.

SEAN

Fair enough

INT. RESTAURANT ITSU

Sean watches Romily talk to the waiter, she laughs and it is so genuine and infectious that Sean cannot help but join in. After a moment his face straightens and he watches her mesmerized.

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON

They Walk down the street at night, Romily holds on to his right arm.

SEAN

Oh fuck we forgot the flowers.

ROMILY

(giggles) i know, you totally forgot them. But don't worry we can get them tomorrow,

SEAN

If they are still there.

ROMILY

Trust me, those flowers would stay there for weeks, no one will touch them.

Sean notices the red stain on the pavement and point.

SEAN

What do you that was?

He turns back to Romily to point it out, but Romily is not there. Panicked, he turns to his left and somehow Romily was there holding on to his left arm, as if she was always there. He is confused but does dwell on it.

INT. DOOR - SEAN'S HALLWAY

They get through the door, Sean put his single key in the bowl and walks to the kitchen assuming Romily will follow.

SEAN

Would you like a drink?

Romily looks at the single key and feels sorry for it, she takes her key from her pocket and places it with the other.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM

Sean and Romily are talking, Sean is sitting crossed legged on his bed, whilst Romily sits on his desk throwing paper aeroplanes at him. The Kafka novel on his beside table catches her eye.

ROMILY

You reading this book as well?

SEAN

Just finished it in fact.

ROMILY

Like it?

SEAN

Didn't really understand it.

ROMILY

I think it's one whole hallucination: some mad dream which he has forced himself into.

SEAN

Why though?

ROMILY

Out of guilt silly.

Sean considers her words and shakes his head.

SEAN

What did he do wrong though?

She pauses and then smiles energetically.

ROMILY

He spilt coffee on a stranger.

Romily jumps over to the bed and kisses him.

SEAN

You know, you don't feel real.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. HALLWAY

There are two sets of keys on the console table.

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON, EARLY MORNING

A camera movement down the center of the deserted road. The movement gets faster and faster. In the far distance, a blur of something we still cannot yet make out.

CUT TO:

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM

Close up on Sean's face as he wakes and takes a gulp of air. We stay on his face until his breathing slows down. He turns to see if Romily is there, a sign of relief as she sleeps. He turns back round.

Romily's hand finds his.

ROMILY

Its too early in the day for nightmares.

Sean closes his eyes again.

SEAN

I am sorry.

EXT. OUTSIDE COFFEE SHOP

Romily is waiting outside the coffee shop, Sean comes out with two cups and gives one to her.

SEAN

Remind me why you don't drink coffee.

ROMILY

I hate the smell, (Beat) it makes me sick.

SEAN

Damn, had I known, I would have thrown tea over you instead.

Romily Smiles.

ROMILY

Don't you worry! I am already plotting my revenge.

SEAN

That's so unfair, you already said you forgave me.

ROMILY

I know, (Beat) I lied.

Sean once again finds himself smiling at Romily, a shadow parks across his face.

SEAN

Do you have to go to work?

ROMILY

Kind of, my Boss has these weird rules, where you have to work from Monday to Friday, but then you get like Saturday and Sunday off.

SEAN

I've heard of that before.

ROMILY

I think its becoming a trend.

Sean laughs.

SEAN

Do you want to come back to mine later.

ROMILY

(Pause) .. Sure

SEAN

Was that a hesitation?

ROMILY

No hesitation. (Shaking her head)

SEAN

(Frowns) I don't know. (Beat) I feel like your gonna just disappear and I'll never see you again.

Romily looks at Sean. She hands him her tea and starts rummaging through her bag, she takes out her keys and places them in Sean's pocket.

ROMILY

So even if I change my mind, I will still have to come back.

SEAN

Nice one.

ROMILY

Besides, I have yet to spill tea over you.

Romily kisses Sean's cheek

ROMILY (CONT'D)

Bye.

Then heads towards the road. Sean realizes he still has her tea and catches up to her just before she steps off the pavement. He walks past the blue flowers sitting against the wall.

SEAN

You forgot this.

ROMILY

Oh OK, thanks.

SEAN

Love you.

(In slow motion) Sean turns in the opposite direction and starts walking. Romily stops in the middle of the road shocked at his words 'I love you'.

Suddenly the sound of a car crash is heard behind him, terrifying screams follow. The camera is fixed on Sean's face, his smile disappears and fear creeps in. He cant bare to turn around and confront what may be Romily's body on the road.

CONTINUED: (2)

A river of tea flows between his legs and drenches his shoes.

He slowly turns around and the camera remains fixed on his face. Even though we do not see what Sean sees, we know the worst has happened because a tear falls down his face.

CUT TO:

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM

Close up on Sean's face as he wakes and takes a gulp of air. We stay on his face until his breathing slows down. He turns around to see if Romily is there. She is. He turns back round.

Romily's hand finds his.

ROMILY

Its too early in the day for nightmares.

Sean closes his eyes again.

SEAN

I am sorry.

INT. HALLWAY

There are two sets of keys on the console table.

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON, EARLY MORNING

A camera movement down the center of a deserted road. In the far distance, a blur of something we cannot yet make out. Finally, the end the road comes into focus and we see a black wall covered in old flowers, amongst them are the blue flowers and a photo of Romily ruined by the rain.

The End.