

Thinking Back
by

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FADE IN:

INT. BARREN ROOM - DAY

A bunk bed sits in the corner. TREVOR (14) lies on it, eyes closed, hands folded on his chest. Wires run from his head to a large machine, that shows colored waves on its display.

Trevor opens his eyes.

TREVOR

You should try teleporting me in the full form.

HENRY (30s) prods the machine.

HENRY

I won't dare to risk you or anybody else for that matter. This is why we need funds.

TREVOR

I know.

HENRY

This is why I need you to concentrate. Let it take you where I tell it to, alright?

Trevor nods. He closes his eyes. Henry powers the machine.

SUSANNA (O.S.)

Guys, it's dinner time. Are you coming?

Henry pouts. He rushes to the door, opens it and yells:

HENRY

Please, not when I'm working.

SUSANNA (O.S.)

Oops. Sorry.

Henry shuts the door and rushes back to Trevor. The machine makes sounds and displays all kinds of waves.

HENRY

Hey, Trev, what are you doing? You need to wait for my orders.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Bright and open, with old trees and a lake. The sun shines brightly.

A couple lies underneath a tree. It's 20 year old HENRY. YOUNG SUSANNA lies in his arms.

SUSANNA

You said you wanted to show me something.

Young Henry reaches into his pocket. It's a ring box.

He hands it to Susanna.

SUSANNA

Oh, my, Henry.

She opens up the box, there's a ring without a stone.

HENRY

We'll put my grandpa's stone in here.

SUSANNA

The one you told me about?

HENRY

Once I find it, it'll go on the ring and it's going to be yours. Deal?

Susanna nods.

HENRY

Will you marry me, then?

SUSANNA

Yes. Of course I will.

He embraces her tighter, she lays her head on his shoulder.

INT. BARREN ROOM - DAY

Trevor's eyelids tremble. A pulse runs through his body.

Henry watches him closely.

HENRY

Trevor, are you back?

Trevor opens up his eyes.

HENRY
You should wait and let me program
where you'll go.

TREVOR
Sorry, dad. It was fun to see you
with mom.

HENRY
Promise it's the last time you
travelling without me.

TREVOR
Okay, I got it. Want me to do it
again?

Henry prods the machine.

HENRY
This time you'll check on our
friend Laura.

TREVOR
I know.

Trevor closes his eyes.

HENRY
You ready?

He machine whirs back to life.

EXT. PARK - DAY

LAURA (20s), smiling eyes and kind face, admires a stone.
Someone approaches from behind and she quick hides the stone
in her pocket.

It's Henry. Henry sits beside her.

HENRY
I'm sorry, Laura, I really am.

LAURA
You're marrying her for her dad.
Think I don't know?

Henry looks away for a while.

HENRY
I'm marrying Susanne and that's
that. And I'm sorry about it.

LAURA
You don't love her, Henry.

HENRY
I already gave her a ring.

LAURA
You can always change your mind.
It's never too late.

Henry fidgets, about to say something uncomfortable.

HENRY
Hey, Laura, about the stone...

LAURA
I put it back. I didn't feel like
taking it.

HENRY
Thanks. I can't find it though.

LAURA
I'm sorry. I told you I put it back
and I did. I didn't feel like you
did the right thing giving it to me
this early.

Henry leans in to her. He stares at her lips. Laura doesn't resist as he inches closer for a kiss.

INT. BARREN ROOM - DAY

Trevor opens his eyes.

Henry waits, impatience in his weary eyes. Trevor takes a breath of air and stares at the ceiling.

TREVOR
She didn't sound like she took the
stone. It's like you gave it to her
and she put it back.

HENRY
But she didn't. She didn't put it
back.

Trevor shakes his head.

TREVOR
There was no stone. Laura and you
were talking.

HENRY

Shoot.

TREVOR

Then I saw you kiss her.

Henry makes a fist and pounds the wall.

HENRY

That's why we need funds - to be able to program the time up to the second.

TREVOR

She said you married mom for her dad. Is that true?

HENRY

Of course not.

TREVOR

You looked sincere with Laura. Seemed to me like, you two... were in love.

Henry grunts.

HENRY

I'm sorry you got to hear us talk. I love your mother very much. It's just happened that your grandpa was the head of Science department at the moment. You shouldn't base your beliefs on Laura's words.

Trevor nods.

HENRY

Let's try once again before dinner.

Trevor lies down.

Henry powers the machine.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Laura sits in a gynecologist chair, hospital gown, legs spread apart. She stares at the ceiling, her eyes vacant.

GYNECOLOGIST looms over her. He finishes the exam, takes off his gloves.

GYNECOLOGIST

You may sit up.

Laura straightens and covers her bare ankles.

GYNECOLOGIST

It looks good, Laura. A healthy boy. Did you tell your husband?

LAURA

There's no husband. I thought you knew.

An awkward silence follows.

LAURA

I was going to ask you about a referral. You know...

GYNECOLOGIST

No, Laura. Abortion is not permitted by the state. New York maybe, or California. But not Louisiana.

LAURA

I have no money for travel.

GYNECOLOGIST

I'm really sorry. Maybe you could talk to the father of your child.

Laura nods. Gynecologist rises and heads out the door.

GYNECOLOGIST

I'll let you dress up.

He shuts the door behind. Laura jerks up, her eyes frantically search for something. At last she finds it.

She spots a hole in the wooden floor and bends down. She reaches into her pocket and retrieves the stone. She thrusts it inside the hole. She makes sure the stone can't be seen.

LAURA

To hell with it.

She rises to her feet and starts dressing up.

INT. ROOM - DAY

Trevor jerks up. Henry looms over him.

TREVOR
I know where the stone is.

A smile of triumph spreads on Henry's face.

HENRY
Great job. Have you seen the exact place?

TREVOR
It's in her doctor's office. She hid it when the doctor told her she's pregnant.

Susanna appears at the door.

SUSANNA
I waited all I could, the dinner is getting cold.

Henry signals to Trevor to get up.

INT. DINNING ROOM - DAY

Trevor works on his steak and beans.

He glances at his mother.

TREVOR
Mom, did you know dad had a girlfriend before you two met?

HENRY
What kind of a stupid question is that?

TREVOR
Sorry, Dad. Just asking.

SUSANNA
Henry! It's okay, Trevor. Yes, I knew that.

Trevor continues slicing his steak.

TREVOR
Mom, did you love Dad?

SUSANNA
Of course I did.

TREVOR
What about Dad?

HENRY

Stop it right this minute! What's wrong with you?

SUSANNA

I guess you should ask your Dad that.

Susanna gets up to clean the table. Trevor rises to help her.

He holds a bowl of gravy in his hands when passing Henry. The bowl suddenly tilts, and Henry finds himself covered in thick meat gravy.

TREVOR

Oops. I'm so sorry. The time travel made me dizzy to be honest. That's why all the questions.

HENRY

It's okay. Go to your room.

Trevor rushes away. Henry walks into the--

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

He washes off the gravy.

INT. BARREN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Trevor hurries toward the machine. He connects the wires to his head and powers it up. He closes his eyes.

EXT. PARK - MERRY GO ROUND - DAY

Henry sits next to Laura on Merry-Go-Round. It's windy and Laura shivers with cold.

LAURA

I keep throwing up. Wondering what it might be.

Henry takes off his jacket and puts it around Laura.

HENRY

What if you're pregnant.

They laugh at first. Then, a dark thought washes over Laura's face.

LAURA
No, but seriously. What if I am?

Henry retrieves the stone from his pocket.

HENRY
Then, we'll get married. And have a baby.

LAURA
What about your research?

HENRY
What about it?

He shrugs, she puts her head on his shoulder. They snuggle.

HENRY
This is for you. The ring is coming by the way.

LAURA
Are you suggesting we get married, Mr. Henry O'Brian?

HENRY
I kind of know we will. So why not to put a seal on it.

She smiles. They bathe in happiness for a while.

LAURA
Oh, you know about that new girl, Susanna. I've heard she's that famous Scientist's daughter.

HENRY
She is?

LAURA
Maybe we could become friends with her. You know...

EXT. CHEAP NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Trevor approaches an old house. He takes a note of the dirty lawn and peeling paint. He goes up the stairs, the rotten floorboards creak under his feet. He knocks.

There's some commotion inside.

The door opens. GARY (15), appears in front of Trevor.

TREVOR

Hi. I'm here for your mother, Laura White. Does she live here?

Gary nods.

GARY

Mom. It's for you.

He's about to leave when Trevor stops him.

TREVOR

I'm sorry, could I ask you a personal question.

Gary stops and shrugs.

TREVOR

How old are you?

GARY

That's a weird thing to ask.

LAURA appears in the hall and walks to the door.

LAURA

How may I help you?

TREVOR

I'm sorry to disturb. I just asked your son how old he was.

LAURA

What?

TREVOR

There's more questions. Like who was your obstetrician in 2014.

GARY

Mom, you want me to talk to him?

Laura stares at Trevor, her eyes vacant.

TREVOR

Wait. You hid a precious stone in his office.

Laura's face turns white.

TREVOR

Did you ever go back for it?

GARY

That's it.

He's about to come our and face Trevor, when Laura stops him.

LAURA

You're Henry's kid, aren't you?

Trevor nods. Laura turns to Gary.

LAURA

Be a dear, let me talk to him alone.
Wait for me inside, will you.

GARY

Whatever.

Laura closes the door after herself.

LAURA

How do you know about the stone? I
never told anyone.

TREVOR

That's not important now.

LAURA

I never went back for it. I'm sorry
if they found it. I was young and
mad at Henry at the time.

Trevor nods in understanding.

TREVOR

One more thing. Is this my half-
brother?

INT. GYNECOLOGIST OFFICE - HALL - DAY

Trevor rushes inside. A disturbed NURSE follows him in.

NURSE

What do you mean, a stone? You know
what, I'll call the cops if you
don't leave right this minute.

People in medical garb appear in the hall. Trevor rushes
inside the room and emerges in a moment.

TREVOR

No need. I'm leaving.

NURSE

Did you find your stone?

TREVOR

No. Sorry.

Trevor lifts his arms in mock surrender and flees the hospital.

INT. DINNING ROOM - DAY

Trevor slurps his cereal. Henry watches him eat, lips thinned. Susanna Finally, Henry bursts with anger.

HENRY

Would you tell me what happened.
Where's the damn stone?

SUSANNA

Henry!

HENRY

What? Our son is a spoiled brat.
I'm an inch away from teleporting a
human being into the past. All I
need is some funding. I gave up a
lot for it, do you know that?

Trevor stops eating.

TREVOR

I couldn't find it.

HENRY

What do you mean?

TREVOR

Sorry. I asked her about the
gynecologist, she gave me the
address. Fifteen years and they
didn't refurbish the hospital - I
thought we had a good chance.

HENRY

Go on, God damn it.

TREVOR

I went in and it wasn't there.

HENRY

The witch got it out, there's no
question about it.

TREVOR

Then they would be able to afford decent living, wouldn't they. I mean, her and her son. You should have seen their neighborhood.

HENRY

I have no interest in their neighborhood.

Trevor shrugs. Henry holds his head. He rises to his feet and paces to and fro.

TREVOR

All I'm saying, it's either a nurse or the doctor who got the stone. Not her. The stone is a lost cause. Don't know why you'd give it to her in the first place.

INT. LAURA'S HOUSE - DAY

Gary walks in, a package in hands. He examines it, tears the package open.

GARY

Mom, it came for you.

He hands the ripped package to Laura. Laura sits down and opens up the wrappings. Inside is a small box and a letter. She opens the letter first.

TREVOR (V.O.)

Hi, Mrs. Freeman. I believe this belongs to you. It was my great grandpa's and has to go to dad's first born, I guess. Either way, please keep it. Sincerely, Trevor.

She hides the box in her pocket.

GARY

What is it?

LAURA

A gift from the past.

Gary hugs his mother.

FADE OUT.