

30 YEARS

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**FADE IN:**

**INT. STORE - DAY**

A small, cramped area. Shelves full of gifts and specialties for all occasions.

Devoid of customers, except for JOHN (50s), who places a box of chocolates and a bouquet of roses on the counter.

The CLERK (20s) smiles as she scans the items.

CLERK  
Special occasion?

John smiles back, proud.

JOHN  
30 year anniversary.

The clerk makes a "that's cute" face.

John points at the chocolates.

JOHN  
Belgian chocolates.

He then points at the flowers.

JOHN  
And roses.

CLERK  
Her favourites I hope.

John nods.

He looks to a shelf close by. A giant, red teddy bear sits upright. Its glassy eyes stare back.

The clerk notices him eyeing the bear up.

CLERK  
Think he likes you.

JOHN  
Should I?

The clerk laughs, shrugs her shoulders.

JOHN  
We would always get one stupid,  
over the top gift.

John grabs the bear, holds it close to his face.

JOHN  
I think this fits that description,  
no?

CLERK  
I guess some people like big, red  
teddy bears.

John hands the bear over to be scanned.

JOHN  
I'm just a little flustered. Been a  
while since--

He scratches the back of his neck.

JOHN  
--Just need it to be perfect.

CLERK  
She's a lucky woman.

JOHN  
I'm the lucky one.

The clerk grins kindly.

CLERK  
That'll be sixty in total.

**EXT. CARPARK - MOMENTS LATER**

John stuffs the bear into the back seat of a car.

A phone pings in his pocket.

He takes it out, looks at the screen.

INSERT: PHONE SCREEN

*Owen: Hope you're OK tonight. Love you Dad.*

BACK TO SCENE

John shoves the phone into his pocket, gets in the car.

**INT. HOTEL ROOM - BEDROOM - LATER**

Spacious and lavish. Everything in here screams luxury. Wide screen TV, expensive linens, fine art on the walls. The lights are dimmed, romantic music plays through speakers.

John lays the chocolates and flowers on the bed.

He grabs the bear from the corner, props him up at the top of the bed.

He stands back to get a look at the presentation, shakes his head. Not impressed.

He rearranges the items, slightly changes the angles in which they lie.

He observes from a distance again. Perfect.

He goes to the large wardrobe, across from the end of the bed, brandishes an expensive shirt.

He takes his top off and puts the new shirt on.

He walks to the dresser, buttons up his shirt in the mirror and splashes some cologne.

He looks around the room, puffs his cheeks and exhales.

A knock at the door.

John dashes over, sets himself, opens up.

On the other side, stands ALICE (50s), tall with wide blue eyes. She smiles when she sees John.

JOHN  
(confused)  
Alice. Who--

He pokes his head out the door, looks left and right.

JOHN  
--It doesn't matter. Come in.

He steps aside to let her in.

He grabs the "Do Not Disturb" sign from the handle, hangs it on the outside and closes the door.

John turns to Alice. She stands straight, stares at John with a wide, closed smile.

He rushes to her, slings his arms around her.

JOHN

It's so good to see you.

Alice doesn't hug back. She continues to stand still, stares ahead with the same big smile.

John stands back.

JOHN

You look great.

Alice stares at his shoes, slowly moves her gaze all the way up to his head.

ALICE

Thank you. You also look great,  
John.

John, clearly delighted with himself, beams back at her.

JOHN

You like the shirt?

Her eyes shift to the shirt, she doesn't answer.

JOHN

You remember it?

ALICE

How has your day been?

John stares at Alice, trying to figure something out.

He snaps himself out of the stare.

JOHN

Good, good.

He moves to the bed, waves his hand over the gifts.

JOHN

Happy anniversary.

Alice doesn't take her eyes off John.

ALICE

Happy thirtieth anniversary, John.

John picks up the chocolates and flowers, hands them to Alice.

JOHN

Belgian and roses.

ALICE  
Belgium. French fries are actually  
believed to have been invented in  
Belgium. Not France, as the name  
might suggest.

John's stares stares at his wife, awash with confusion.

JOHN  
And the roses?

ALICE  
Even though their thorns are strong  
and sharp, certain species of deer  
are able to eat roses.

JOHN  
Uh.. OK.

He turns to the bear on the bed, points to it and smiles at  
Alice.

JOHN  
Remember we'd always get one  
ridiculous, over the top gift?

Alice stares blankly at the bear, same wide smile. Oblivious  
to what's being said.

John slowly approaches her, takes the chocolates and roses  
from her and places them on the bed.

JOHN  
Can I kiss you, Alice?

She puckers her lips.

John kisses her but she doesn't react. She stays still as he  
tries to inject some passion.

He holds the back of her neck, she stands stiff as a board.

He snaps back, sits on the side of the bed.

JOHN  
This is ridiculous.

He looks up at Alice.

JOHN  
Do you remember any of this?

Alice remains in a pose, lips puckered.

JOHN  
Jesus! Look at me.

Alice's face returns to the default smile. She stares blankly at John.

JOHN  
Do you remember anything, Alice?

Nothing.

JOHN  
Fuck! They said you'd--

He looks down at the floor.

JOHN  
--I just wanted one more night.

He closes his eyes. Tired, dejected, angry.

**INT. HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - LATER**

John sits on the edge of the tub as he talks into his mobile phone, nostrils flared, pure frustration etched onto his face.

JOHN  
But that's ridiculous.

VOICE (V.O.)  
I understand your frustration, sir.  
But--

JOHN  
I know, I know. It came in the pack. It's just when she--

John stops himself, closes his eyes and pinches the bridge of his nose.

JOHN  
--When the unit arrived, everything went out the window.

VOICE (V.O.)  
Understandable. We do recommend at least a two hour charge before interaction. Anything less, the unit will not perform to max potential.

John gets up, stands in the centre of the room.

JOHN  
Two hours?

VOICE (V.O.)  
Two hours. Instructions are in the  
pack you received before delivery.

JOHN  
Thanks.

He hangs up the phone, exits the room, closing the door  
behind him.

A few seconds pass.

JOHN (O.S.)  
Two five four two three, sleep.

**INT. HOTEL ROOM - BEDROOM - LATER**

John sits on an armchair in the corner, looking at his phone  
with a smile full of love spread across his face.

**INSERT: PHONE SCREEN**

A photo of John and Alice. Both slightly younger, happy, on a  
balcony with sun shining down on them.

The picture is captioned: Should have been 30 years today.  
Will love you forever.

**BACK TO SCENE**

John locks the screen, places his phone down on a table.

He looks across the room. Alice sits perfectly on the bed,  
eyes closed with a small helmet on her head. A cord runs from  
the side of the helmet, into the wall.

Johns lays his head back, closes his eyes and waits.

**FADE OUT.**