

HERO

By

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FADE IN:

PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

A large space. Room for hundreds of cars. Filled to capacity during the day, just about empty now.

One lone car is parked in a corner far away from the stairs.

The door to the stairway bursts open.

MIA (30), beautiful, but angry stomps out. Her footsteps echo in the cavernous garage.

The door slams shut behind her, but a second later, it bursts open again.

RAYMOND (35), hurries out after Mia. He jogs to catch up with her, grabs a hold of her arm. Angry, she pulls free.

RAYMOND

Mia, wait. Listen to me.

Raymond grabs her again, spins her around. Pissed off, she SLAPS him in the face.

Stunned, Raymond lets go of her.

She marches on to the lone car. When she gets there, she searches her purse for the key, but finds none.

Raymond walks up with the key in his hand. Mia tries to grab it, but Raymond closes his fist.

MIA

Give me the key.

RAYMOND

Mia... It's not what you think. I can explain everything.

MIA

I don't need an explanation for something I saw with my own eyes. Now give me the key.

RAYMOND

I'll drive, okay?

Mia stares daggers into him, then makes up her mind.

MIA

Go ahead and drive. I'll walk.

She marches out of there with her chin held high.

Raymond sighs, watches her head down the ramp to the next level, then gets in the car.

He's about to close the door when there's a whirring sound approaching. He searches for the source of the whir.

A drone with a package attached, hovers above, then lands next to the car.

Raymond stares at the drone. WTF?

DRONE
(robotic voice)
Please take the package.

The drone detaches the package, then flies out of the garage.

Confused, Raymond eyes the package. He gets out of the car, picks it up, inspects it. He opens it up. Inside is a VR headset.

With a crinkled brow, he studies it, then puts it on.

POV: VR HEADSET

The view is the exact same as inside the parking garage. Except for one thing...

Raymond is in the picture, he is slightly translucent.

BACK TO SCENE:

Baffled, Raymond pulls the headset off, looks around. No one else is there.

With some apprehension, he puts the headset back on.

POV: VR HEADSET

VR Raymond gestures to Raymond to follow him.

VR RAYMOND
Hurry! We don't have much time.

BACK TO SCENE:

Raymond pulls the headset off again. Glances around. Sees no one. Hesitates, then puts it back on again.

POV: VR HEADSET

VR Raymond seems frustrated.

VR RAYMOND
 C'mon! If you don't save her, she
 will die.

VR Raymond heads off towards the down ramp.

RAYMOND (O.S.)
 What the fuck is going on here?

VR RAYMOND
 A guy named Trent will attack and
 kill Mia if you don't stop him.

VR Raymond picks up his speed. Raymond follows.

RAYMOND (O.S.)
 Who are you?

VR RAYMOND
 Can't you see I'm you?

RAYMOND (O.S.)
 Why are you in this thing? Who made
 this game?

VR Raymond rounds a pillar. Real Raymond right behind him.

VR RAYMOND
 It's not a game.

Up ahead, by the exit is a cargo van. VR Raymond stops behind
 a pillar, whispers to Raymond.

VR RAYMOND
 See that van over there? It's
 Trent's.

The van starts up, its lights flick on.

BACK TO SCENE:

Raymond peeks out from underneath the VR headset.

The van is there, just like it is with the headset on, just
 without VR Raymond. He puts the headset back on.

POV: VR HEADSET

VR Raymond turns to look us in the eye.

VR RAYMOND
 Mia is in the back of that van.

RAYMOND (O.S.)
What! How do you know this?

VR RAYMOND
I'm you. Your spirit from the
future. I'm here so you can save
her.

VR Raymond fades in and out.

RAYMOND (O.S.)
My ghost?. I'm dead?...

VR RAYMOND
Yes. This was the only way I could
figure out how to save her... and
our child.

The van backs out from its spot.

VR RAYMOND
Hurry! Go before it's too late!

BACK TO SCENE:

Raymond yanks the headset off, drops it on the ground, then
takes off as fast as he can after the van.

RAYMOND
Hey! Stop the car!

The van approaches the security bar at the exit. It's down.

Raymond catches up. Pulls the driver side door open.

TRENT (50s), pushes Raymond away.

Raymond holds on. Grabs Trent's jacket, hauls him out.
Trent's big, they both land hard on the concrete.

RAYMOND
(yells)
Mia! I'm here.

Trent slaps his meaty hand on Raymond's throat, squeezes.

Raymond punches Trent multiple times. Fast. Hard.

Trent squeezes harder. Raymond's face turns red.

Muffled screams are heard from inside the van.

Raymond grabs a hold of Trent's head, bangs it against the
hard floor. Blood sprays.

Raymond's face is dark red. Can't breathe.

Crunch. His throat crushed. He gasps. Can't get air.

A last desperate hit to the concrete with Trent's head.

Crack. Trent's body goes limp.

Raymond gets up. Staggeres to the back of the van, pulls the door open. Inside is Mia. Hogtied with a rag in her mouth. Tears in her eyes.

Raymond pulls the rag out.

MIA

Raymond! He grabbed me from behind.

He quickly unties her. He gets weaker by the second, still can't breathe. He helps her out of the van.

Mia stares in horror at him.

MIA

Oh my God. What did he do to you?
We have to call 911.

Raymond drops to his knees. Mouths, I love you, then puts his head against her belly as if listening for a tiny heartbeat.

Confused, Mia puts her hand on his head.

Slow raspy breaths emanate from his mouth. One last breath, then he collapses to the ground.

Mia crouches next to him, feels for a pulse.

MIA

Raymond! Raymond, wake up!

She digs into his pants pocket, pulls out his phone, dials.

The VR Headset lies alone on the garage floor..

POV: VR HEADSET

Raymond lies dead on the ground. Mia next to him on the phone. VR Raymond, ghostly translucent, stands next to them.

VR RAYMOND

We did it.

Then VR Raymond fades away.

FADE OUT: