

New Lease

By

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INT-SUBURBAN HOUSE-NIGHT

A close up on the clock reads 10:34 pm. The house is empty. The camera trucks through the living room, into the dining room, and into the kitchen. Outside, a low rumble of thunder can be heard over the sound of raindrops hitting the roof of the house.

The camera moves upstairs.

INT-BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

Pictures of a young boy in a youth football uniform, an awkward looking teenager at his first dance, and a picture of the same boy as a Senior in high school adorn the walls of the bedroom. The room itself is dark and empty.

The camera trucks into the hallway. Light shines from inside the bathroom.

INT-BATHROOM-CONTINUOUS

The young man seen in the photos from the bedroom sits in the bathtub naked. His name is Ryan Gray. Ryan lowers himself into the bathtub filled with water and shuts his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT-DINER-EVENING

Ryan is seated at a booth with a man who looks to be about 34 years old. Ryan is coughing almost uncontrollably. The man notices this.

MAN:

Whoa! Whoa! Slow down, don't eat so fast buddy, raise your hands above your head.

The man raises his hands above his head.

MAN:

Do like I'm doing right now. C'mon Ryan, just breathe.

Ryan's coughing spell ends. He takes a deep breath.

RYAN:

How did I get here? And who are you?

MAN:

I'm sure you must have a lot of

questions. Here take a drink.

The man offers Ryan a drink of his pop. Ryan takes a long sip and swallows.

RYAN:

Who are you?

MAN:

My name is David, and trust me, I'm a friend. Do you know where you are right now?

RYAN:

Yeah, this is Scotty's. This is one of my favorite places to eat in Mount Adams.

DAVID:

Correction. This was one of your favorite places to eat in Mount Adams.

David pulls out a manila folder from a black bag sitting beside him. He opens the folder and begins to read.

DAVID:

Ryan Gray. 18 years old, a recent graduate of Mt. Adams High School. Committed suicide via drowning in your bathtub on July 19th 2009--

RYAN:

Alright stop. You're freaking me out here, man. Where the fuck am I?

DAVID:

Ryan, welcome to a little place I like to call Purgatory.

RYAN:

I'm in Purgatory?

DAVID:

Yeah, you know, the biblical place between Heaven and Hell. You're in it buddy. And you, are what I like to call "incredibly misguided."

RYAN:

You think that I'm misguided?

DAVID:

Oh I don't just think so. I know
so. Come with me.

David gets up from his seat and heads towards the exit, waving
to the hostess as he leaves. Ryan follows him.

EXT-RESTAURANT-CONTINUOUS

RYAN:

Where are we going?

DAVID:

The big game is tonight, don't you
remember?

RYAN:

What big game?

DAVID:

You know, between Mt. Adams and
Jefferson Hills High? Just get in
the car.

David and Ryan get into David's car. The car drives out of
the parking lot and onto the road.

EXT-FOOTBALL STADIUM-EVENING

The sun is setting as fans enter the stadium. We see David's
car pull into the parking lot, and David and Ryan get out of
the car.

RYAN:

So why were we just at Scotty's,
and furthermore, why are we here
now?

David stops and turns around to Ryan.

DAVID:

Ryan, you committed suicide because
you felt responsible for the death
of your best friend Donnie. What
I'm about to do is take you back
and forth through time to show you
a series of dates and specific
times in your life that were
extremely significant. I'm also
going to show you some things that
you did not get to see while you
were living, in the hope that it
will give you some new found

perspective about your life, and the life of your friends. But please, Ryan, I only have 24 hours to show you what I have to show you, so do me a favor, and keep the questions to a minimum. Do you know what date this is?

RYAN:

No.

DAVID:

Today is September 23, 2007. The night you met the two most important people in your life. Your best friend Donnie, and your girlfriend, Cassie.

INT-STADIUM-NIGHT

Ryan and David take their seats at the game. David is carrying a plate of food.

DAVID:

Here, have a hot dog.

David gives the hot dog to Ryan. Ryan takes a bite.

DAVID:

Now pay attention, because we're not here for the game. Follow my finger, and look down at the people walking down below the stands. You see that girl?

RYAN:

Yeah. It's Cassie. God, she's absolutely--

DAVID:

Beautiful, I know. Look at who she's with.

RYAN:

It's Donnie.

DAVID:

You see how Cassie's sort of walking ahead of him?

RYAN:

Yeah. This was right before I--

Ryan watches as he, as a younger teenager, runs into Cassie below the stands. His drink spills all over Cassie's shirt. Ryan begins to apologize.

RYAN:

Ouch.

DAVID:

Not your smoothest move, you have to admit.

RYAN:

Tell me about it.

They both watch as the younger Ryan begins to talk with Cassie, and shakes hands with Donnie.

DAVID:

You were so concerned after you left tonight, that you were moving in on Donnie's girl. Watch Cassie's mannerisms here.

They watch as Donnie tries to put his arm around Cassie, and Cassie's body goes rigid.

RYAN:

She's uncomfortable by him.

DAVID:

She always was. Because she knew something that you didn't.

David looks at his watch.

DAVID:

Crap. We gotta move quickly. Shut your eyes.

Ryan obliges and David snaps his fingers.

EXT-MALL FOOD COURT-NIGHT

David and Ryan watch as Donnie appears cold as he looks around nervously, as if he's waiting for someone. A moment later, a car pulls up, and a 13 year old Cassie gets out of the passenger side door.

DAVID:

I'll spare you the guessing game this time. We've moved to October 15th, 2006.

David and Ryan watch as the scene unfolds.

13 YR. OLD CASSIE:
Here you go, Donnie. How's your
back feeling?

13 YR. OLD DONNIE
It's still really hurting. Are
these it?

13 YR. OLD CASSIE
Yeah. There were my uncle's.

13 YR. OLD DONNIE:
And he doesn't know you took them?

13 YR. OLD CASSIE:
No. And my cousin drove me. She
won't tell. Are you going to be
okay, Donnie?

13 YR. OLD DONNIE:
I will now. Thank you. You're the
best.

Donnie kisses Cassie on the forehead.

13 YR. OLD DONNIE:
I gotta run. I told my mom I'd be
outside of Sears.

13 YR. OLD CASSIE:
D'ya want a ride over? Since your
back is hurting?

13 YR. OLD DONNIE.
No, Jesus Christ. Just get out of
here.

Cassie watches Donnie run at a sprinting pace in the opposite
direction towards Sears.

RYAN:
He was addicted to pain meds?

DAVID:
Yeah. This was the night that she
put two and two together. She'd
been uncomfortable around him ever
since. C'mon. I have to show you
something else. Close your eyes
again.

INT-BATHROOM-EVENING

David and Ryan watch as Ryan, who now looks more like himself, and Donnie talk in the restroom on graduation day.

RYAN:
Commencement day.

DAVID:
Shortly after, yes.

GRADUATING RYAN:
It'll be different without you up at Ohio State with me.

GRADUATING DONNIE:
Yeah. But they'll be breaks from school and stuff. At least you'll have Cassie up there with you.

GRADUATING RYAN:
That will be nice. Are you heading to her party straight from here?

GRADUATING DONNIE:
Yeah, I'll be along in a minute. Do you think I could bum a ride?

GRADUATING RYAN:
Yeah, I mean. You might have to ride on someone's lap, or better yet, why not have Kayla ride on your lap?

GRADUATING DONNIE:
Oh, you out of room?

GRADUATING RYAN:
Yeah, I'm taking a full load. All of Cassie's friends decided to ride in my car.

GRADUATING DONNIE:
Oh okay, well, I live like 2 minutes from here, I'll just walk down to my house and get my car.

GRADUATING RYAN:
Alright, you sure?

GRADUATING DONNIE:
Yeah, it's no problem. I'll be along.

Ryan and David watch as the younger Ryan leaves the Donnie in the rest room. Donnie momentarily peers out of the restroom and looks to the right and left, looking for anyone who might be watching. Donnie then comes back into the restroom, takes off his graduation gown and throws it in the trash. Donnie is wearing nice slacks, a button down shirt, and tie underneath. Donnie then digs into his pocket and pulls out a prescription bottle.

RYAN:

Oh no. I can't watch this.

DAVID:

Stop Ryan. You need to see this.

Ryan's eyes begin to well up with tears as he watches Donnie crush up to pills of Oxycontin on the sink counter, and snort the powder up his nose.

DAVID:

I think you know what happened next. What you didn't know was that Donnie was driving high. Donnie ran that red light and got T-boned because he wasn't in control of himself. It wasn't your fault that he died.

Tears begin to roll down Ryan's face.

DAVID:

You've seen enough of this. I have one more thing to show you.

Without being prompted, Ryan shuts his eyes. When he opens them, they are in Cassie's bedroom. They see Cassie sitting on the edge of her bed crying.

INT-CASSIE'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

RYAN:

This must have been after Donnie died. June 3rd?

DAVID:

No. I'll tell you in a minute. But first, I need you to look into her eyes. Don't worry, she can't see you.

RYAN:

Ok

Ryan kneels down in front of Cassie. Her face is red, and her cheeks are soaking wet from tears. Yet her eyes are no longer crying. She is just sitting there sobbing.

DAVID:

Answer me something. Are there any tears running down her face?

RYAN:

No.

DAVID:

You are correct, Ryan. And the reason why is because there is a point that everyone reaches when they have been weeping for a long time, where their tear ducts literally dry up. The person has to drink water to refill the ducts in order to produce tears. Cassie has run out of tears, Ryan. She's run out of tears because today is July 20th, 2009. You died last night, and Cassie got the news four hours ago.

PAUSE

DAVID:

She's crying for you, Ryan. Let me show you something.

David leaves the room and enters into Cassie's parents bedroom.

CASSIE'S PARENTS BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

David fishes through Cassie's mother's jewelry box and pulls out a small key. With it, David goes over to Cassie's parent's nightstand and unlocks the top drawer. There is a black box inside.

RYAN:

Stop, David.

David begins to smile. Ryan finally understands.

DAVID:

Do you understand what's in this box?

RYAN:

A gun.

DAVID:

Yes. And if you don't stop Cassie by 10:00 pm tomorrow night, she'll die by her own hand. She knows where her father keys the key, and the gun. That's why you're getting a second chance Ryan. The fact is, you've been depressed because of Donnie's death for the past month, and she's taken notice. Her performance at work has suffered because of it, and her parents have started to notice as well. Ryan, this is my last ditch effort to give you some perspective on the positive things in your life before you die for good.

RYAN:

You mean I'm not dead?

DAVID:

I told you from the beginning, you're in the in-between. And in here, anything is possible.

David checks his watch.

DAVID:

In real-time, you've been here a grand total of 25 seconds. How long can you hold your breath?

RYAN:

Just under a minute.

DAVID:

Well, what are you waiting for. Close your eyes.

RYAN:

Thank you, David.

DAVID:

You're welcome. Now, when I put my hand on your shoulder, you're going to get the urge to cough again. Cough as much as possible to get the remaining water out of your lungs.

RYAN:

Got it.

DAVID:

And Ryan? If you do this, you should know, that you'll be saving my life too.

RYAN:

(Looking confused)

How?

DAVID:

My job in purgatory is to guide those who've lost perspective. It's not so much a job as it is a sentence. If you do this, my sentence will be completed, and I'll get to where I'm going.

RYAN:

And where is that?

DAVID:

(looking towards the sky)

Hopefully somewhere up there. Whatever that is anyway, heaven, nirvana. You know, a better place than this.

David gets ready to place his hands on Ryan's shoulders.

DAVID:

Remember to cough.

Ryan nods. David places his hands on Ryan's shoulders.

INT-BATHROOM-NIGHT

As David said, it is July 19th, 2009. Ryan is as he was in the beginning, in the bathtub, coughing profusely. When he is finished, he checks the time on his watch, which is sitting on the windowsill next to the tub. Ryan has not lost any time.

EXT-RYAN'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Ryan has put on some clothes and now comes bursting out of the front door of his house. It is raining, as it was in the beginning. He climbs into his car and pulls out of his driveway, peeling out as he leaves his street.

EXT-CASSIE'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Ryan pulls up in front of Cassie's house as Cassie is getting home from work. She is keying into the front door.

Ryan gets out of his car and starts running towards Cassie.

CASSIE:
Ryan, what are you doing here--

Before Cassie can finish, Ryan kisses Cassie with as much passion and love as he can muster.

CASSIE:
(looking surprised)
You haven't kissed me like that since...

PAUSE

RYAN:
Since Donnie died.

CASSIE:
Yeah.

PAUSE

RYAN:
I love you, Cassie. Do you know that?

CASSIE:
Yeah, I do.

PAUSE.

CASSIE:
But, it's nice to hear again. You seem...better.

RYAN:
I just had a weird dream.

CASSIE:
You want to tell me about it? Over some ice cream?

RYAN:
(smiling)
Yeah. Is anything open this late?

CASSIE:
Yeah, I think Betsy's is open till midnight. Let me change clothes.

RYAN:

Okay.

CASSIE:

I love you, Ryan. You know that
right?

RYAN:

Yeah. Although it's nice to hear
it again.

CUT TO BLACK

ROLL CREDITS

THE END.