

The Reason (Short)

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BLACK SCREEN.

We hear the common sounds you hear in a public restaurant. Footsteps, chatting, laughter... Outside, cars passing by...

FADE IN:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

A COFFEE SHOP. Somewhere in New York. On a chair, seated on opposite sides, there's MALCOLM, 27 and REGINA, 28. He's tall, clear skin, a black short beard growing on his chin. She's really pretty, clear skin as well and light brown hair. They seem to be a couple. However, they don't see really happy. There's some kind of sad, uncomfortable ambience.

There's a long beat. Both are trying to think what to say.

MALCOLM
Are you going to--?

REGINA
I think--

Both stop talking. There's a really uncomfortable silence. Finally, Malcolm takes the first word.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Were you... going to say something?

REGINA
Not really. You?

MALCOLM
I wanted to ask if you wanna order something.

Beat. An incredulous stare from Regina.

REGINA
Y'know I ain't staying, right?

MALCOLM
I was just asking if you wanted to--
-

REGINA
(Upset)
No, Malcolm! I don't wanna order a fuckin' thing!

MALCOLM
(Low voice)
Ok! Ok! Jesus, Regina. Calm down.
We're in a fucking restaurant.

Another long beat.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

You haven't told me what you're gonna do in England.

REGINA

What do you mean? I've told you like a thousand times. I'm going to start from scratch. Is it too hard to remember?

MALCOLM

No, no. I remember. It's just that...

He smiles at her.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

I love hearing your voice.

Regina sighs, sick of it. Sick of him.

REGINA

Malcolm, cut the crap. Just... cut it.

Malcolm's grin disappears. He doesn't know what to say, how to get her love back.

MALCOLM

Sorry, I was just trying to be nice. I never thought our relationship was gonna be so--

REGINA

Don't!

(Beat; in low voice)

Don't you dare calling it a relationship. It was never it. We were never... Just. Ugh, I don't even know what the fuck am I doing here.

She stands up. Malcolm as well, but trying to stop her.

MALCOLM

Wait, wait! Just... Stay. Stay, please. For me. Just stay a little bit longer. Please.

Regina sits down once more. So does Malcolm.

REGINA

Why do you even want me here,
Malcolm?

A beat.

MALCOLM

I wanna know.

REGINA

What?

MALCOLM

I wanna know the reason.

REGINA

The reason for what?

MALCOLM

The reason we can't be together.

A long beat. Regina makes an incredulous stare again.

MUSIC, calm and beautiful, Hans Zimmer's A Way of Life style,
fades up...

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON (FLASHBACK)

On a bed, there lies Malcolm, shirtless, under the sheets. He's staring at Regina, **smiling**. She's putting on a white T-shirt, seated at the edge of the bed, no wearing pants. It seems they just had sex.

After Regina has the shirt on, Malcolm stretches his arm, trying to touch her right shoulder. However, after feeling the touch of Malcolm's fingers, Regina makes a slide move, uncomfortable. Malcolm is confused. Is there something wrong? He gets his arm away from her.

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY CLUB - NIGHT (THE NIGHT BEFORE)

Inside a dark party club, neon lights illuminate the place. Dozen and dozen of people dance on a dance floor. CAMERA PANS UNTIL WE SEE Malcolm and Regina, seated on a couch. Her head is leaned on Malcolm's right shoulder. He's **smiling**. He feels loved.

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY CLUB - NIGHT (MOMENTS BEFORE)

QUICK SHOTS of Regina drinking whisky, tequila and other alcoholic drinks in small glasses. She laughs along Malcolm, who drinks the same as her.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY (WEEKS BEFORE)

Malcolm and Regina walk together in a park. They hang along. No problem existed in those times.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT (ONE YEAR BEFORE)

Among some other friends, whom are laughing and drinking beers, Malcolm seems and smiles at something O.S. He's not paying attention to his pals. He's paying attention to...

Regina, who is staring at him as well. As Malcolm, she's among other girls, beers in hand. She's not paying attention to them. She smiles at Malcolm.

REGINA (V.O)
What are we, Malcolm?

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT (SOME NIGHTS BEFORE)

Seated in the driver's seat, there's Malcolm, somehow nervous or thrilled. Next to him, there's Regina, waiting for an answer.

MALCOLM
If you allow me... I may be the best thing you ever had. I... really... like you. I love you. And not just in that way, but... I really love you, like a husband loves his wife. I wanna have something with you, if you allow me. If you allow us.

Regina thinks about it, very, very seriously. She nods and grabs Malcolm's hand. He holds her in a sweet way.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRL'S DRESSROOM / SCHOOL - DAY (YEARS BEFORE)

CAMERA DOLLIES BACK as a very young MALCOLM (probably 12 years old), wearing a school uniform, walks towards us in a very silent way, trying to prevent anyone to notice his presence.

REGINA (V.O)

Ok, but we need to state something.
And this is serious, Malcolm. If we
wanna go on like this, then you
must understand about what am I
gonna say. Understood?

He peeks out from behind a wall and sees...

FROM MALCOLM'S POV: There's 13-year-old Regina, getting dressed with a Physical Education uniform. She doesn't realise his presence.

Young Malcolm starts coming out of his hideout, mesmerized by Regina's beauty.

MALCOLM (V.O)

Yes, Regina. For you... anything.

Young Regina looks at her side and discovers Malcolm, staring at her. A normal girl would scream and shout, and scold Malcolm for entering a place boy's shouldn't. But Regina doesn't. She just stares at Malcolm. Discovers his feelings just by staring at his eyes. He **smiles**. She tries to smile, trying to analyze the informations she just found out.

The music fades away...

FADE TO:

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON (LATER THAT DAY)

On a sidewalk, Malcolm, happy and thrilled, walks with his hands on his pockets, with a backpack behind him, with the memory of Regina smiling at him.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

KNOCK KNOCK!

We stare at an entrance door. A woman shows up, MALCOLM'S MOTHER (mid 40's) and opens the door. Malcolm is at the entrance.

YOUNG MALCOLM

Hey, ma.

MOTHER

Hey, how was school?

YOUNG MALCOLM

(Hugging her)

It was wonderful.

MOTHER

Oh, really? Why so happy right now?
I thought you hate school.

YOUNG MALCOLM

(Entering the house)

I do, but I just found out who my
future wife will be.

MOTHER

(Closing the door)

Oh, someone's in love.

YOUNG MALCOLM

Crazy in love! Jesus, she's the
most beautiful girl in the world. I
could say we share a secret affair.

MOTHER

A secret affair--?
(Suspicious)
Did you both have sex or what?

YOUNG MALCOLM

What?! No, mom! Is the way she
stares at me. God, I'll marry her
and I'll have dozens and dozens of
children with her.

MOTHER

Will you tell me her name?

YOUNG MALCOLM

Nope. As I said: secret affair.

MOTHER

Oh, ok, young Romeo. Just don't
have dozens and dozens of children
right now, alright?

Young Malcolm walks away, still in love.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Hey, where's--?

KNOCK KNOCK! Mother walks towards the door and opens it.

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE: From someone's POV, we see the door being opened and Mother looking at us.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Hey, darling. How was your day?

The POV belongs to...

YOUNG REGINA
Hey, mom. It was great.

Regina.

What?

MUSIC RESUMES, BLASTING ON THE SOUNDTRACK AFTER SUCH A PLOT TWIST. Young Regina hugs *her mother*.

FROM YOUNG MALCOLM'S POV: Young Regina enters and Mother shuts the door.

YOUNG REGINA (CONT'D)
I fell while playing Basketball,
but I'm fine.

MOTHER
Are you sure? Did you bleed?

YOUNG REGINA
Nah, I'm fine.

Young Malcolm stares at the scene, hidden behind a wall leading to the kitchen. He **smiles**. We may conclude it was a Romeo and Juliet forbidden love after all.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

NO SOUND IS HEARD.

Moments later, Mother, the CHILDREN'S FATHER (a man on his late 40's), Young Malcolm and Young Regina are seated around a dining table. They're chatting while having supper. CAMERA PANS TO THE LEFT and stops as we see BROTHER and SISTER, seated together.

Older Regina's voice is heard.

REGINA (V.O)

No one may find out we're brothers.
Society wouldn't understand. It
just attacks whoever is different.
Whoever doesn't follow the rules.
Whoever isn't normal. And this...
wouldn't be.

Both children glimpse to each other, and **smile** shyly...
nervous... thrilled... in love...

Older Malcolm's voice is heard.

MALCOLM (V.O)

And I'll be glad to share it with
you, my love.

Music fades out.

FADE TO BLACK.

A long beat.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - BACK TO THE PRESENT

Back in the coffee shop.

28-year-old Regina thinks about a answer. But she doesn't
have a great explanation. She opens her mouth, but no words
come out. A long silence. Malcolm waits desperately for an
answer. Finally, Regina lets go:

REGINA

Because I can't.

Malcolm seems disappointed. He expected a longer answer. He
gives up. He knows he had lost her.

Regina stands up, grabs her luggage and starts walking away.
But she suddenly stops. Thinks about something. Standed next
to Malcolm, she speaks to him in low voice:

REGINA (CONT'D)

I've always loved you, y'know.

Malcolm looks at her, still seated.

REGINA (CONT'D)

And not just in that way, but... I
really loved you, like a wife loves
her husband.

(MORE)

REGINA (CONT'D)

I wanted to have something with you, as you allowed me. As you allowed us. But... after what happened at your bedroom, I knew they wouldn't let us. Society. If this world were... better, filled with people with great hearts and good souls, then I would hold your hand until death. But... we just can't. We're brothers. And we have to settle for that.

MALCOLM

(In low voice)

But I don't wanna settle with that. I wanna settle with you.

REGINA

I'm sorry. But we'll have to.

Regina leans and kisses Malcolm's forehead. She joins hers with his.. They both close their eyes.

REGINA (CONT'D)

You'll find someone else. I know you will.

Regina steps back and holds her luggage once more. She's ready to leave.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Goodbye... brother... my love.

Regina finally walks away and exits the shop. She turns and walks through the sidewalk, avoiding to see Malcolm's sight.

Malcolm sees her leave after she's finally gone.

As the CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY TOWARDS MALCOLM'S FACE, he covers his hand discreetly, hiding his red eyes and falling tears. He's shaking, holding his desire of crying. He inhales and exhales, trying to calm himself. He doesn't know what to do.

So he closes his eyes. Dries his tears. As he imagines something inside his mind, a smile draws on his face...

The same smile he did when he looked at her...

CUT TO BLACK.