

WHEN TIME LEFT ME

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"WHEN TIME LEFT ME"

FADE IN:

ON A TICKING CLOCK

The gentle tick of the clock is the only sound that brings life to a depressing room.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

AELRIC sits still on a chair, blankly staring at a wall. He appears to be in his twenties; a young and healthy young man. However, his eyes appear old and given up. He stares out the window; his dead eyes fix on the busy street.

SHOT OF HIS HANDS

His hands are held together. A line of rings inhabit his ring finger; some golden, other silver - marriage rings.

There is a knock on the door.

MAN(O.S)

Aelric!

Aelric sighs.

AELRIC

What?

MAN(O.S)

He's here.

Aelric sighs once again, frustrated.

AELRIC

I told you not to bring him here. I desire for him to leave.

MAN(O.S)

Please Aelric, give it a try.

AELRIC

No!

The door opens and an older man walks in.

This is EDWARD

Edward walks towards Aelric and settles right in front of him. Aelric avoids Edward's gaze, which causes him to frown.

EDWARD

Aelric, look at me.

Aelric slowly meets Edward's gaze.

AELRIC

I told you Edward, you mustn't insist; I don't desire to meet this kid.

EDWARD

You need to meet someone. Look at you, you're slipping back to your old language. We are in the 21st century. Please.

Aelric ponders for a couple of seconds. He brings up his hand to his head and hits himself repeatedly.

AELRIC

Don't make me do this again, please.

Aelric's eye emits a tear.

EDWARD

Come on he's the only family you have.

AELRIC

He's my great, great, great, great, great and many other greats grandson. He has no significance to me.

EDWARD

He lost both of his parents, you're everything he's got. Don't you know how that feels? I know you're scared.

Aelric breathes slowly; he then nods.

AELRIC

Fine, bring him in.

Edward nods. He gives Aelric a friendly slap on his shoulder and walks towards the door and opens it.

He makes an inviting gesture towards something in the hallway. Small steps approach, and then a little boy appears from the hallway.

MATT(6) Long hair, innocent sad eyes, big cheeks and small figure. He tightly holds a teddy bear between his hands. His backpack appears too big on his back.

He inches forward, his eyes rejecting Aelric.

EDWARD

Matt, this is Aelric. He is you great, great, great... Um... He's your grandfather.

Matt's eyes explore Aelric; from his straight posture, to his face clear of wrinkles, to his modern shoes and long hair - this can't be true.

MATT

(intimated)

Hi

AELRIC

Hi.

EDWARD

Well, I'll leave you two alone.

Edward leaves, leaving the duo in total silence.

AELRIC

So?

Matt stares at Aelric, who has a hard time meeting his gaze. Matt sits down on the floor and grabs his backpack. He sets it in front of him and opens it.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

So your name is Matt?

Matthew pulls out a notebook and a pencil. He opens up the notebook and starts scribbling. He slowly nods.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

I used to have a friend named Matt.

Matt stays silent, his hand scribbling away.

MATT

What's your name?

AELRIC

Aelric.

MATT

That's a funny name.

Aelric chuckles.

AELRIC

It's an old name that's why. I was born in 1255, that's when I received my name.

Matt doesn't seem surprised by his answer.

MATT

I'm sorry Mr. Aelric. But shouldn't you be dead?

AELRIC

If only kid, if only.

Matt continues scribbling in his notebook.

MATT

If you're that old, did you meet my parents when they were little?

AELRIC

No kid. It's been a long time since I meet someone carrying the same blood.

MATT

Why?

AELRIC

Because... It couldn't happen.

MATT

Why? Is it because they lived far away?

AELRIC

No... it's because I didn't want to.

MATT

Why?

Aelric sighs.

AELRIC

Because I don't like to.

MATT

Why?

AELRIC

I don't want to, let's leave it at that.

Matt looks at Aelric, his face saddens.

MATT

I'm sorry Mr. Aelric. I ask too many questions. My parents said it was annoying.

Matt looks back down at his drawing, he continues to scribble. Aelric's eyes review Matt - his great concentration roots him to stick his tongue out.

ALERIC

(clears throat)

So ahem.. you like to draw?

Matt slowly nods.

ALERIC (CONT'D)

Cool. I remember I wanted to be a painter myself. My cave drawings were such a massive success! HA!

Aelric looks at Matt, the joke doesn't hit.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

I'm just kidding, I'm not that old.

Aelric awkwardly moves his gaze towards the window. The only sound in the room emits from the tip of the pencil scratching the paper that sits on Matt's lap.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

So, Um... what are you drawing?

Matt turns away from his drawing and looks at Aelric. His eyes tighten, studying him.

Aelric shrugs.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

(annoyed) Whatever kid, I don't expect you to talk, I like silence anyways.

Aelric turns away from the kid and goes back to staring out the window. The daylight lends itself to Aelric, forming a bright aurora around his rocking chair. He leans back, sighs and admires the view.

Small footsteps approach.

Aelric opens his eyes to see -

Matt standing next to him. He sets his drawing on Aelric's lap, bites his lip in embarrassment and dawdles away.

Aelric looks at the drawing.

INSERT - DRAWING

A crayon drawing of a man sitting down on a rocking chair, staring out the window.

Aelric glances at Matt, who has set himself on the floor. He brings his backpack up to his chest and hugs it closely.

AELRIC

Listen kid, you can stay for a couple of days. While I decide where to take you.

Matt responds to Aelric by lying down on the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. AELRIC'S ROOM - MORNING

Aelric lays on his side, soundlessly asleep.

INSERT - ALARM CLOCK

7:05 am.

A small hand reaches for Aelric and pokes him on his cheek.

Aelric's eyes pop open.

Matt stands next to Aelric's bed. He wears a button up striped shirt with denim shorts and crocs. Aelric shrugs at Matt - what do you want?

He notices the backpack strapped on Matt's shoulders and sighs.

AELRIC

I'm taking you to school?

Matt slowly nods, clearly intimidated by Aelric.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

Listen kid, Um... I know you're going through a hard time. I mean, with your parents and all. I understand if you'd rather settle down for a couple of days. And you know, miss school.

Matt shakes his head, rejecting the idea. He holds Aelric's hand and pulls him out of bed.

Aelric sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. AELRIC'S CAR - MINUTES LATER

Aelric pulls up next to an elementary school.

AELRIC

(awkwardly encouraging) Time to learn!
Read your books and eat healthy! And
um...

The door shuts, Matt is already walking towards the school.

Aelric panics and honks his horn, trying to attract Matt's attention. Matt turns around.

AELRIC
You didn't tell me the time you
get out!

Matt raises three fingers, turns back around and continues ahead.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - HOURS LATER

Matt sits down on the sidewalk. His eyes and feet tired. He traces a pattern on the dirt with a stick - he clearly has been waiting for more than he'd want.

A car pulls up in front of him.

AELRIC
Get in kid.

Matt slides into the car, they move forward.

INT. CAR - CONTINUED

Aelric drives ahead.

The clock marks 3:45 pm.

AELRIC
What do you want to eat?

Silence.

AELRIC (CONT'D)
I asked what you want to eat? Really
anything, money isn't a problem

Matt stays irresponsive.

AELRIC (CONT'D)
I guess you're not hungry then.

MATT
Chinese.

Matt is hugging his backpack, his expression angered.

AELRIC

Are you mad because I was late, or do just not like to talk?

MATT

You don't like to talk. I won't talk either.

AELRIC

I'm sorry kid, my past life is in the past. There is no point in talking about it.

Silence falls upon the duo for a couple of seconds.

MATT

I want to play a game.

AELRIC

A game? What kind of game?

MATT

I get to ask you two questions and you decide to answer one.

AELRIC

I guess, only if I get to ask back.

Matt ponders.

MATT

Okay. How old are you? And. Are you married?

AELRIC

I'm 761 years old. My turn. Are you mad at me because I came here late? And. Do you not like me?

MATT

I'm not mad. I'm used to it.

Aelric looks at Matt for a couple of seconds.

MATT (CONT'D)

Why don't you want to meet your family? And. Why do you have so many rings in that finger?

Aelric sighs - that's a tough one.

AELRIC

Asking the good questions I see. These are marriage rings. From my past wives.

Aelric touches each ring on his finger.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

This one is from my first wife. Mary. Then we have Martha. Teresa. Lisa. Stacy. Leslie and finally we have Karen.

Matt nods, genuinely interested.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

Did you not like your parents? And. Are you hoping to stay at my house?

Matt struggles to answer.

MATT

Um.. I don't l...I want to stay.

Aelric nods.

MATT

When did your parents die? And. Do you miss them?

Aelric sighs.

AELRIC

They died in 1297 of old age. Hundreds of years ago. And you ever only get two parents kid.

Aelric thinks, he then speaks.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

Do you have any friends? And. Do you miss your parents?

MATT

No.

AELRIC

No what?

MATT

No!

Matt's face saddens.

MATT

Why don't you ever leave your house. And. Why didn't you want to meet me?

AELRIC

They are both the same answer kid. You're smart. Well... Because I'm tired.

MATT

Tired of what?

AELRIC

Just tired kid. Tired of growing to love so many people and then -

Aelric slaps his hand on the steering wheel.

AELRIC

My turn. Why didn't you like your parents? And. What would you do if they were back here?

MATT

I don't want to play anymore.

Matt brings his knees up to his seat and hugs them.

AELRIC

I'm sorry kid. I forget this
(MORE)

AELRIC (CONT'D)

generation. People are so sensitive. Here. I'll let you ask two questions. And I have to answer both of them.

Matt moves his arms from his knees, sniffs and thinks - he's interested.

MATT

Okay. Why can't you die?

Aelric sighs.

AELRIC

I don't know. I just never did.

Silence falls upon the duo once again.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

Second question?

MATT

I didn't think you'd want the second question.

AELRIC

I don't. Listen. I may be dry, stubborn and abundantly dislikable at times. But I never break my promises kid.

MATT

Alright. Do you miss your parents?

AELRIC

There hasn't been a day in my 761 years of life where I don't think about them.

CUT TO:

INT. TV ROOM - CONTINUED

Aelric lays on the couch, his feet up on the coffee table. Little Matt sits on the floor next to him, munching on his Chinese food.

AELRIC

Make sure you throw the empty box
away in the trashcan next to the
kitchen.

Matt rises, grabs the empty box and wanders out of the room.

Aelric points the remote at the T.V and switches the channel.

Matt re-enters the room, holding his backpack between his arms. He
places the backpack on top of the coffee table and stares, then
sighs. Aelric watches from the couch. He raises his eyebrows.

AELRIC

You're going to do homework?

MATT

Yup.

Matt opens up his backpack and takes out a notebook. He kneels down
on the floor and gracefully places the opened notebook on the coffee
table.

AELRIC

What's your homework? If it's history
I reckon I could help you a great
deal. In fact, I reckon I could do
your homework for you.

Aelric gets up from the couch and stalks towards Matt. He leans over
to see many numbers.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

Oh screw that. Math is no fun.

MATT

I like Math. I hate History.

AELRIC

Oh kid. You didn't have to live
through it.

MATT

Is it true you wanted to be a
painter?

AELRIC

You know. When you're as old as me.
You want to explore so many things.

MATT

I want to be painter.

AELRIC

And have you ever wanted to be
something else?

MATT

No, just a painter.

AELRIC

Well... Umm... I wouldn't mind
seeing your drawings.

MATT

If I stay with you can you take me
to art school?

Aelric sighs and runs a hand through his hair - screw it.

AELRIC

Sure kid.

INT. TV ROOM - NIGHT

Aelric lays on the couch, his eyed tiredly watching T.V. His body
rises. He sighs off his sleep and looks down to see -

Matt, lying on his lap, soundlessly asleep.

Aelric looks at the kid for a couple of moments. He leans in close
to him and picks him up.

INT. AELRIC'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Aelric walks in and towards his bed. He gently lays down the kid. He
settles himself next to him.

CUT TO:

INT. AELRIC'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Matt sleeps. Footsteps approach. The door opens.

AELRIC

Matt, come on. Time for school.

Aelric stands next to Matt. He places a hand on his shoulder and shakes him. Matt opens an eye and yawns.

AELRIC

Matt, come on. Breakfast is on the table, so is your school lunch.

Aelric walks out.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: **2 WEEKS LATER**

INT. AELRIC'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MORNING

Aelric knocks on a door.

A drawing made up of crayons pasted on the door.

INSERT - DRAWING

MATT'S ROOM

AELRIC

Matt. Wake up. Time for school.

CUT TO:

INT. AELRIC'S CAR - MORNING

Aelric pulls up next to the school.

AELRIC

Alright. Out you go.

Matt leans towards Aelric and hugs him.

MATT

See you at 3!

AELRIC

See you at 3! I have a surprise for you.

MATT

A surprise? What is it?

AELRIC

You'll see. Shoo!

Matt opens the car door and stalks out.

AELRIC

Forgot your lunch, again.

Aelric tosses a paper bag at Matt; he catches it.

AELRIC

There you go buddy.

MATT

Thanks.

Aelric smiles and closes the car door.

CUT TO:

INT. AELRIC'S HOUSE - MATT'S ROOM - HOURS LATER

Matt walks in, his eyes covered by Aelric's hands

MATT

Come on! I want to see!

Aelric removes his hands from Matt's eyes. Matt scans the room, his eyes stop and his mouth immediately springs into a grand smile.

MATT'S POV

A painting stand that serves as the base of a great board. Behind the painting stand sits a chair with a great variety of paint brushes and colors to its side.

Aelric looks down at Matt.

AELRIC

So? Do you like it?

Matt responds to Aelric's question with a great hug. Aelric responds by hugging him back; without hesitation.

Matt breaks away and advances towards the stand. He examines every corner of the object.

MATT

I've never had one before.

AELRIC

I'm glad you like it.

MATT

Thank you!

Matt hugs Aelric once again.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

Aelric reads a book while Matt sits behind his painting stand, his paint brush gently strokes the board.

Aelric and Matt watching a movie together.

Aelric dropping Matt at school, he waves goodbye with a great smile slapped across his face.

Aelric eating Chinese take-out with Matt.

Matt explaining his homework to Aelric.

Aelric sitting next to Matt as he paints away.

Aelric swinging Matt to a fro on a park swing.

Matt taping a drawing made up of crayons on a door. The drawing reads "**AELRIC'S ROOM**"

Aelric skating with Matt on a side walk.

Aelric and Matt watching another movie in the T.V ROOM. Matt, however, has fallen asleep on Aelric's shoulder.

Aelric and Matt playing a board game, they laugh as Aelric rolls the dice.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S ROOM - MONTHS LATER

Aelric walks in to find Matt staring at a new painting.

AELRIC

Hey, I've called you many times already. Diner is ready.

MATT

Sorry, I was finishing up a painting.

Aelric walks towards Matt. He looks at the painting.

INSERT - PAINTING

A man and a kid at a beach. They hold hands as they walk towards the sunset.

AELRIC

Hey, This one is actually pretty good.

MATT

Thank you.

AELRIC

Who's the kid? Is it you?

Matt nods.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

And is that your dad?

Matt shakes his head.

MATT

No silly, that's you.

AELRIC

(surprised)Me? But we have never been to the beach.

MATT

I know. But... I've always wanted to go.

AELRIC

Your parents never took you?

Matt shakes his head.

AELRIC (CONT'D)

Why?

MATT

They never had the time, that's what they said anyway. I never really left the town.

Aelric sighs.

AELRIC

Listen. In the summer, if your grades are good, I will travel with you. We can go to Europe. Disney. Wherever you want.

MATT

The beach.

AELRIC

(surprised) Just the beach?

MATT

That's all I ever wanted to see.

Aelric shrugs.

AELRIC

Well, the beach it is.

Matt cracks a genuine smile. Aelric turns to leave.

MATT

I thought you didn't like leaving the town. That it was important for you to stay where you are.

Aelric pauses.

AELRIC

Yeah. But... You're worth it. Let's go have diner.

Aelric holds Matt by the shoulder and pushes him upwards.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - MONTHS LATER

MONTAGE

Aelric and Matt walk along the coastline of a beach; talking and laughing.

YEARS LATER

12 year old Matt and Aelric throw sand balls at each other; laughing as they do so.

YEARS LATER

18 year old Matt playing volleyball with Aelric at the beach.

YEARS LATER

27 year old Matt and Aelric lying down on the coast line, the water reaching their feet.

YEARS LATER

40 year old Matt sits on the trunk of a van, reading a book. Aelric munches on some chips.

YEARS LATER

50 year old Matt sits on the coastline along with Aelric; a fishing rod trapped between each other's hands.

YEARS LATER

70 year old Matt sitting on a beach chair, admiring the sun set.

YEARS LATER

Aelric pushes a wheel chair along the coastline. In the wheel chair sits 90 year old Matt; whose face appears tired. Aelric kneels down in front of Matt and ties his shoe. He rises, looks at Matt with sad and given up eyes, and finally plants a kiss on his forehead.

DAYS LATER

Aelric sits on the coastline of the beach. An empty wheel chair perched next to him. The late stages of the sunset rays illuminate the water washing away a pile of ashes that Aelric has gently placed on the coastline.

CUT TO:

INT. AELRIC'S HOUSE - DAYS LATER

Aelric sits in front of the dining room table. A great cake awaits the first bite. The colorful candles indicate that this is his 851st birthday.

He opens the fridge, places the cake inside and closes the fridge. A picture is taped on the fridge door.

INSERT - PICTURE

A man and a kid at a beach. They hold hands as they walk towards the sunset.

FADE OUT:

THE END