

White
(Inspired By the Movie Beautiful)
By Rajesh Bhardwaj

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The camera fades in on a forest somewhere around the world. Snow is everywhere in the forest reducing the temperature to the coldest climates of Russia.

A man in his late thirties walks past the many trees of the cold forest. This is JAVIER. He looks disheveled. He looks lost as if he was somewhere else first but somehow ended up here. His hair brushes on his face as the cold air gently blows past him.

He turns to see if he can find anyone so he can maybe find out where he is.

Off screen we hear the sound of loud crunches of footsteps digging onto the snow on the ground.

The camera cuts to a much younger man approaching JAVIER from around the corner of two trees. When JAVIER sees him he stares at him as if he had seen him somewhere before.

JAVIER

What noise does the wind make when
it blows?

Without hesitating the younger man makes an attempt to make the sound of the wind with his mouth. JAVIER smiles.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

What sound does the rain make when
it rains?

Once again the younger man makes the sound of rain in wind by sucking through his mouth. JAVIER smiles because it sounds nothing like rain in wind.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Now do both!

The younger man now combines both sounds together with his mouth. JAVIER smiles and then a sense of realization comes to him that saddens him. This sadness is more like a memory when someone dies.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Are you my father?

YOUNGER MAN

What do you think, JAVIER?

JAVIER

Where are we?

JAVIER glances this place he is in where now there is no sound.

YOUNGER MAN

We are here JAVIER and we will
always be waiting for you.

INT. JAVIER'S HOUSE - DAY

JAVIER lays on his bed. The camera zooms to his face to show us Javier's eyes bloodshot red. He hasn't shaved in days and a rough stubble has formed.

He stands to get up but struggles to and falls flat on his back.

He goes to put his hand on the bed but he has no strength left to even hold himself up.

JAVIER

Marta! Mar...

(He struggles to call
Marta and coughs loudly)

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Marta!

Suddenly off screen we hear the pattering feet of a young girl running towards JAVIER. She comes into frame and for the first time we see MARTA, Javier's ten year old daughter.

MARTA

Dad!

Marta is quite a strong and resilient girl. She helped her Mother recover from a drug overdose and she is not too weak to help this time.

She grabs hold of Javier's hand and pulls him up on the bed. She lifts up his feet and puts them on the bed. Both JAVIER and Marta are out of breath.

JAVIER puts his hand on Marta's face and looks at his daughter with the upmost affection.

JAVIER

Look in my eyes.

Marta has a quizzical look on her face.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Don't be afraid. Just look into my
eyes.

JAVIER sits up and Marta then looks his face.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Look at my face. Don't forget this
face. Remember it.

(MORE)

JAVIER (CONT'D)
I want you to know that whatever
happens I will always love you.
(Pause)

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Just please do not forget me.

Marta eyes wet with her tears. She knew something was up.

JAVIER see his daughter's tears.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Don't be afraid.

Marta holds her fathers hand and squeezes tight. JAVIER moves over to the BEDSIDE CABINET and opens the draw. He takes out something which is out of frame. He holds it up where we see a DIAMOND WEDDING RING. JAVIER puts it on his little finger and stares at it with admiration and regret. An unusual feeling to have when such a thing of beauty is before you.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
This use to be your Mother's. The
day I gave it to her was the
happiest day of my life.

Marta gawks at the ring in admiration. Maybe this would be the ring she would wear at her wedding. Or not.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
(He puts the ring on her
finger.)
Now it's yours.

MARTA
Are you serious? This is Mom's
ring.

JAVIER
Your Mom wore this ring out a long
time ago. Now it's yours.

MARTA
But Dad...

JAVIER
I want you to be happy. It's yours.

He gives her kiss on her forehead.

Marta lays next to her Father. She turns her head to the bedside draw.

In the draw she sees a photo of the younger man in the snowy forest.

She takes the photo.

MARTA
(Re: photo)
Dad. Whose this in this picture?

JAVIER takes the photo and examines it.

JAVIER
That is...my father.

As he says this puts the picture on the bed beside him and rubs his eyes with his other hand.

MARTA
Wow! He was cute!

This surprises JAVIER as he now realizes his little girl is growing up and many 'cute' boys will be lining up to date her.

MARTA (CONT'D)
How come it didn't pass along?

She giggles a little.

JAVIER doesn't answer. He doesn't have the strength to take part. He stokes her hair. He's happy to see his daughter smiling in this little moment.

JAVIER
He died when I was young.
(Pause)
I can't even remember him.

This is said by him as he is telling himself that.

JAVIER
My mom gave this picture of him.

JAVIER pauses and then closes his eyes. He breathes heavily and then stops.

MARTA
Dad?

JAVIER is now not moving. It is quite obvious the decay of his cancer has killed him.

MARTA (CONT'D)
Dad!

Marta now realises that her father is dead. She wails a small cry in shock and then breaks down in tears uncontrollably.

MARTA (CONT'D)
Dad! Oh Dad!

The screen fades to White.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

We are at the White snowy forest again. The camera pans round the snowy trees to find JAVIER again but this time he know where he is. The younger man, who we've established to be his father, is standing in front of him.

JAVIER

Dad?

The young man, his father, say nothing. He stands and gives JAVIER a fatherly gaze.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

I know where we are!

YOUNGER MAN

Where?

JAVIER

This is...

(Pause)

This is heaven? That can't be right with all the bad things I have done!

(Pause)

He stares directly into the younger man's eyes.
Why am I here?

YOUNGER MAN

Come with me.

He holds out his hand like a father would to a small child.

JAVIER looks at him quizzically. Why is this man holding out his hand?

For a moment it dawns JAVIER. His father used to hold out his hand if he was confused and scared. This was his father!

They both walk into the distance past the snowy trees and through the cold air.

The camera pans down to the snow on the ground until the screen fades to White.