

Am I Awake?

By

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EXT. HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT

We see a old run-down car pulling up to a high school where a young teenage boy waves at the car. The teenage boy MICHAEL (16) looks bored as he enters the car. Inside the car, we see his mom MOLLY(32) humming a tune on the radio as music plays. We then see Michael's little sister MADDIE (4) sitting on a car seat dancing to the little tune as Michael enters the front seat.

INT. CAR NIGHT

MICHAEL (BORED TONE)
Hey mom, hey Maddie.

MOLLY
Hey, honey! How was school today?

MICHAEL
(groans) It was the worst, because of that awful Samuel Johnson, who can suck a...

MOLLY
Hold on honey, I gotta focus. There's been a lot of drunk drivers lately.

EXT. STREET NIGHT

The car pulls out of the parking lot and heads out into the night. Ominous music plays as we hear car noises. Inside the car Michael gets annoyed of being ignored while his sister tries to get his attention.

INT. CAR NIGHT

MADDIE
Micky! Micky! Look at me! Look at me!
I'm Dancing!

MICHAEL (ANNOYED TONE)
Maddie, do me a favor and please shut up!!

Maddie whimpers at this and starts to sniffle and begins to cry. Molly turns to Michael with a furious expression on her face.

MOLLY
MICHAEL PARKER! That wasn't nice.
Apologize now, young man!!

MICHAEL (ANGRY)

I've had a bad day and no one in this fucking family gives a damn about it. Your all so, so... so SELFISH!!!

MOLLY (GASPS)

Watch your language and tone, mister! Your the one being very selfish right now!

MICHAEL

Oh yeah? Well then you try being a high schooler, working everyday non-stop, with no one giving you respect ever.

MOLLY (ANGRY)

Excuse me, mister! I am your mother. You think you got it bad? I work 24/7 at a deadbeat job, just to feed and house you both and I don't hear a single thank you from either one of you.

The two continue to argue while Maddie stares confused and scared as she hold her hair and whimpers a bit terrified. As the fight continues the mom doesn't notice a driver looking drunk as he swerves towards them at a high speed. The mom's car is slow. Michael then realizes what's happening.

MICHAEL

MOM, LOOK OUT!!!!!!

The screen goes black as we hear gasps and car crash noises and hear Michael screaming in the background.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE AFTERNOON

We now see Michael sitting in a chair in a therapist office having bandages on his palms and is also wearing two bracelets on each hand. He looks very distressed and very confused as his fingers dwindle a bit. The door suddenly opens behind him and enters his therapist Dr. GABRIEL (60) who his holding a folder with his name on it. He sits down in his chair and looks at Michael with a smile.

GABRIEL

Hello Michael, I am Dr. Gabriel and I am here to help you in anyway I can.
(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

And from what I was told you been through a lot so please don't hesitate to tell me anything, ok? Now please have a seat on my therapy couch.

Michael just nods and snuffles a bit. Gabriel frowns a bit but then returns to his smile. Michael gets up and sits on the classic therapy chair. Gabriel sits on a wheelchair and takes out a notepad and gives him a look of encouragement.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Now son, it has been over a week since the accident, and I have been told how you have been experiencing vivid "dreams" so please explain.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Well, it was kinda weird. I woke up in the hospital with my mom hugging me so hard. I felt like I was knocked out for days. She was wearing a red shirt and had a bandage over her head and she tearfully told me how Maddie didn't make it. She also said how the driver escaped before the police could get him.

INT. HOSPITAL RED REALITY NIGHT

As Michael describes how everything goes, we flashback to the hospital as we see Molly standing over Michael bed crying. In this reality everything appears to be more warm and has more red color than before. We then switch back to the therapist office as the temperature goes back to normal.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE AFTERNOON

MICHAEL

And so, after that mom left and I went back to bed. But that when things got very strange.

GABRIEL

Strange? What do you mean by, strange?

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Well after I went to sleep, I woke up again and I was back in the hospital but this time instead of my mom it was my sister Maddie. She was crying on a

(MORE)

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
chair. After I cleared my throat she jumped on my bed and hugged me. Then a nurse named REBECCA came in and she explained how my sister was the only survivor of the accident which meant my mom was dead. But the weirdest part was that instead of being red it was all green.

INT. HOSPITAL GREEN REALITY NIGHT

As Michael continues to talk we once again open up in the hospital still as a flashback, but we now see Maddie crying and the nurse Rebecca standing behind looking sorry. In this reality, everything appears to be more cooler and is mostly green. Michael also looks very confused and stressed out. We then switch back to the therapist office as the temperature goes back to normal.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE AFTERNOON

MICHAEL
And so, after that I went back to sleep still very confused. And when I woke up again I was back in the reality where my mom was alive.

Michael stops talking and takes a breather. Gabriel stops writing and looks into Michael. He blinks a bit, strokes his chin, and then speaks.

GABRIEL
So let me get this straight, every time you slept you switched between two realities of red and green?

MICHAEL
Yeah, I guess so.

GABRIEL
But you just told me what happened between both realities after the accident. Its been over a week since then, so what happened?

MICHAEL
Oh, right. Well after I woke up again, I was in the red reality and to make sure I didn't get confused between both realities I decided to simply

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
wear a red bracelet on my right hand
in the red reality and a green
bracelet on my left hand in the green
reality.

We flashback again between the red reality and the green reality where Michael wakes up. He grabs a bracelet off a table and wears it in his right hand in the red reality, while in the green one, he wears it on his left hand.

CUT TO:

I/E. MICHAEL'S HOUSE/HOSPITAL BOTH REALITIES

BEGIN MONTAGE of Week 1 in both realities.

In the red reality, we see Michael playing video games on the couch when Molly walks by looking at photo of Maddie and softly crying. Michael notices this and sighs.

In the green reality, we see Michael and Maddie hanging out in the hospital room playing a card game. Maddie looks a bit teared up while Michael pats her back to comfort her.

We now see him present Molly sandwiches he baked in which his mom tears up and hugs him. (Red)

The next scene is in Rebecca's office in which he pulls out a folder which says Inheritance. Michael looks shocked while Maddie looks excited. (Green)

The next scene shows Molly filling out a civil form with Michael sitting next to her holding a box of tissues. (Red)

The final scene shows Michael on his hospital bed talking on the phone with him holding a picture of their mom and a bank paper. (Green)

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE AFTERNOON

MICHAEL
So yeah, that's what happened. I grew
more closer with my mom in one
reality, while I inherit a lot of
money from my mom's account and helped
my sister deal with loss.

As Michael finishes his story, Gabriel looks at him. He then murmurs a bit and then turns to Michael.

GABRIEL

Well thanks to your description of what happened, I can conclude that you are simply coping.

MICHAEL

Coping?

GABRIEL

Let me explain. The way you described what you went through confirms my theory. You are depressed and blame yourself for the accident and these "realities" are your way of coping the loss of your mother or your sister. Which means one of those realities has to be a dream. Got it?

MICHAEL

Not really, but I can see it being possible. But which reality is the dream?

GABRIEL

Well my friend, it will be up to you to decide that. Here is my final instructions to you, so listen carefully, ok?

Michael nods and gets out of the couch and sits back in the chair. Gabriel turns his wheelchair and looks at him serious.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You told me how one week went, now I want you to go through another week, then come back to me next Saturday and describe it and then maybe we can figure out what is going on. You got me?

Michael thinks about this and after a while he turns to Gabriel and nods.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Good. Now go and good luck to you!

Michael gets up and waves goodbye and leaves the office as the screen goes black.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE AFTERNOON

It's been another week since the last session as Michael enters the office again looking even more confused. He sits down this time with no bandages on his arms. Gabriel enters again looking tired but hopeful. He sits down with Michael's file and looks at him.

GABRIEL

Well, its been another week Michael,
lets get down to business, shall we?
Have a seat in the couch, ok?

Michael nods a bit and heads for the couch and breathes a bit. Gabriel sits again and takes out his notepad and pencil and looks at him.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You seem a bit shaken up there, son.
Wanna talk about it?

Michael looks worried but Gabriel gives him a trusting look.

MICHAEL

(sighs) Well in simple terms the
second week was more worse.

GABRIEL

What happened?

MICHAEL

Well...

CUT TO:

I/E. MICHAEL'S HOUSE/HOSPITAL BOTH REALITIES

BEGIN MONTAGE of Week 2 in both realities.

In the red reality, we see Michael eating breakfast with Molly. She sets three plates out of habitat and falters and sniffles. Michael watches uneasy.

In the green reality, we see Maddie walking slowly with Rebecca while Michael drags behind looking sad.

The next scene shows Molly arguing on the phone. With Michael sitting nearby staring sad. (Red)

We then see them sitting in Rebecca's office now with bunch of papers. Maddie signs them easily while Michael struggles. (Green)

The next scene shows Michael laying in bed as Molly cries in the other room. He wants to help her but hesitates and sighs. (Red)

The final scene shows Maddie talking on the phone laughing but then looks sad while Michael looks at her sad. (Green)

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE AFTERNOON

MICHAEL

So after all that, it got worse in both and I still can't figure out which one's the dream.

As Michael finishes up, Gabriel stares and takes a deep breath. Michael notices that his notepad has no words on it and nothing from previous sessions.

GABRIEL

Michael have you ever felt like you belonged in both realities?

MICHAEL

Well I thought I did. (sighs) But now I'm not so sure anymore.

GABRIEL

Think back again to both realities. When everything was moving forward did you ever feel like moving with it?

Michael thinks back as we flashback again to the green reality hospital with Michael walking behind Maddie and in the red reality when Michael was in bed. He stops and then wonders another possibility.

MICHAEL

(gasps) No, it can't be.

Michael soon worries and goes to look at Gabriel's desk and sees his reflection but it falters for half a second and disappears as Michael realizes a dark thought that he was the one that died. His bracelets seem to have lost their color as

well. Gabriel looks at him now serious.

GABRIEL
Figured it out?

MICHAEL (NERVOUS TONE)
Yeah, I kept thinking I was being left
behind. (swallows) But I wasn't. Cause
I was already gone.

Michael shakes a bit terrified. Gabriel stares at him and
sighs and then looks serious.

MICHAEL
But wait. If I'm gone then there has
to be another reality, right?

GABRIEL
Exactly. And I think you know which
one it is, right?

Michael nods and swallows a bit nervous.

MICHAEL
But why?

GABRIEL
Because you survived that accident
long enough to now choose.

MICHAEL
You mean?

GABRIEL
That's right. It's gonna be hard but
now you have to choose one and that's
all I can say. Its all up to you now
Michael. Think hard!

Michael sits and begins to think hard. He flashbacks to
moments from both weeks in a quick blur and after a while he
opens his eyes determined. He walks up to Gabriel and
whispers into his ear. Gabriel blinks his eyes and looks at
Michael shocked but still serious.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Are you sure?

MICHAEL
(nods) Very sure.

Michael steps away and looks towards the door determined. He looks back at Gabriel who is now standing and his chair is no longer there. He smiles at him with some tears coming out. He then points at the door that is now glowing.

GABRIEL

Then go.

Gabriel salutes Michael as he smiles back and enters the door.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL BLUE REALITY NIGHT

We see Maddie in the hospital bed waking up looking confused. In the side, Molly is passed out in a chair sleeping holding a photo of Michael. This reality appears more blue and cooler.

MADDIE

Mom?

MOLLY (GASPS)

Maddie! Oh Maddie!!

The mother and daughter hug in the bed happy to be together. Unknown to them, in the doorway we see Michael staring at them happy for them. He cries at the sight. He waves at them. They don't notice him though.

MICHAEL (O.S.)

Goodbye, mom. Goodbye, Maddie.

Michael begins to fade away in golden light and moment continues with the mother and daughter hugging with the photo looking more colorful than before.

Screen fades out.

THE END